ジョジョリオン

JoJolion

ジョジョの奇妙な冒険 Part8

19

volume

荒木飛呂彦

JUMP COMICS

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JUMP COMICS

#075

OZONE BABY'S PRESSURE PART ③

THE 'PEARS' THAT THE BOY'S PARENTS GREW WERE JUDGED TO HAVE MAGNIFICENT SWEETNESS AND WON AWARDS AT COMPETITIONS FOR IT.

AT THE END OF FALL, THE MONEY THEY MADE FROM THEIR ORCHARD ROSE TO 80 MILLION YEN.

THE FATHER AND MOTHER WERE BACKED INTO A CORNER— AND FORCED TO PART WITH THE ORCHARD.

GO

THE USURPERS WERE CONNECTED WITH SOME LOCAL MONEY-LENDERS.

THEY CAME IN THE NIGHT.

IT WAS AN EARLY MORNING AFTER SUMMER HAD ENDED— THEY WENT TO CHECK THE TREES THEY'D BEEN LOOKING AFTER SINCE THE PREVIOUS WINTER,

AND NOT A SINGLE PEAR WAS LEFT REMAINING ON THE TREES.

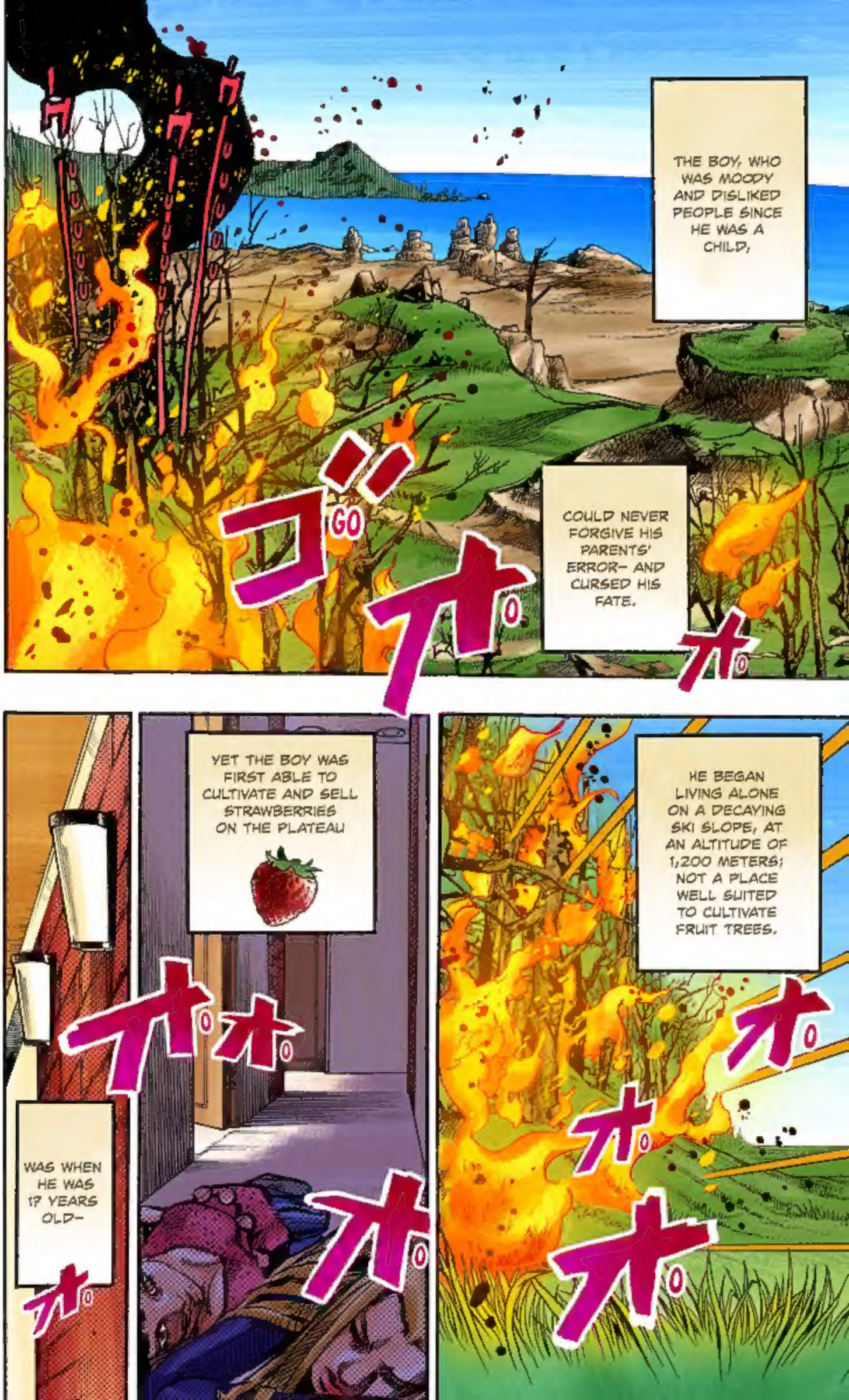
EVEN THE TREES THEMSELVES WERE CUT DOWN.

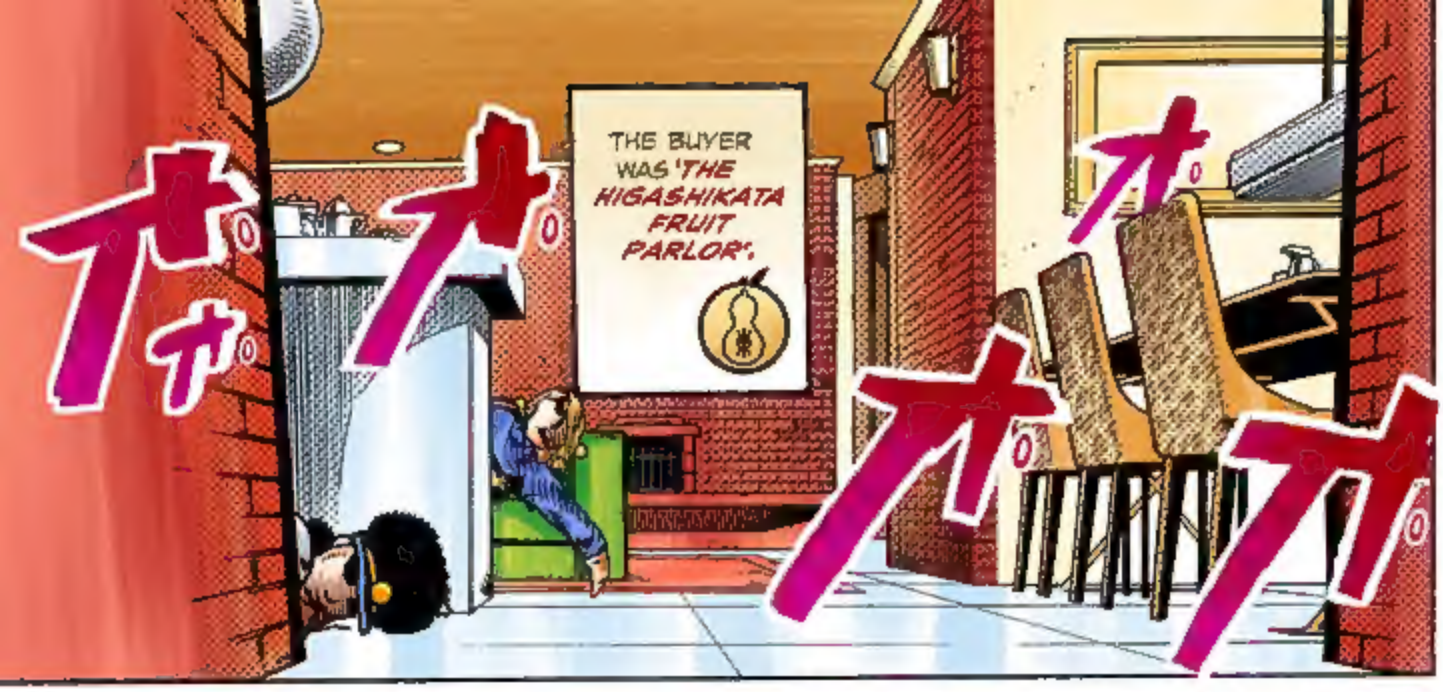
NOR WAS IT BECAUSE OF THE INCREASE OF WILD JAPANESE MONKEYS, WHICH WERE A MAJOR PEST TOWARDS PEARS,

IT WAS BECAUSE THEIR CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES LEAKED TO OTHER PEOPLE IN THE INDUSTRY.

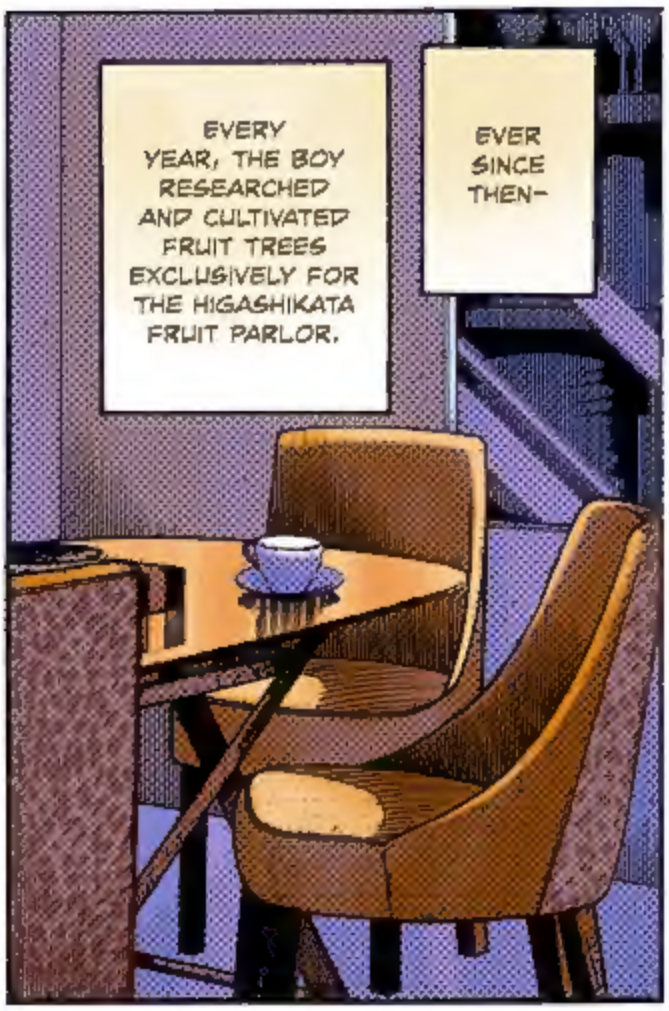
WAS NOT DUE TO TYPHOONS, DROUGHTS, OR ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE *WEATHER*,

STILL, WHERE THE BOY'S PARENTS FAILED IN OPERATING THEIR ORCHARD


THE BOY, WHO WAS MOODY AND DISLIKED PEOPLE SINCE HE WAS A CHILD,
COULD NEVER FORGIVE HIS PARENTS' ERROR— AND CURSED HIS FATE.
GO
YET THE BOY WAS FIRST ABLE TO CULTIVATE AND SELL STRAWBERRIES ON THE PLATEAU
WAS WHEN HE WAS 17 YEARS OLD—
HE BEGAN LIVING ALONE ON A DECAYING SKI SLOPE, AT AN ALTITUDE OF 1,200 METERS; NOT A PLACE WELL SUITED TO CULTIVATE FRUIT TREES.


THE BUYER WAS 'THE HIGASHIKATA FRUIT PARLOR'.

ONLY FOR THE 4TH GENERATION "HIGASHIKATA NORISUKE".
GU.

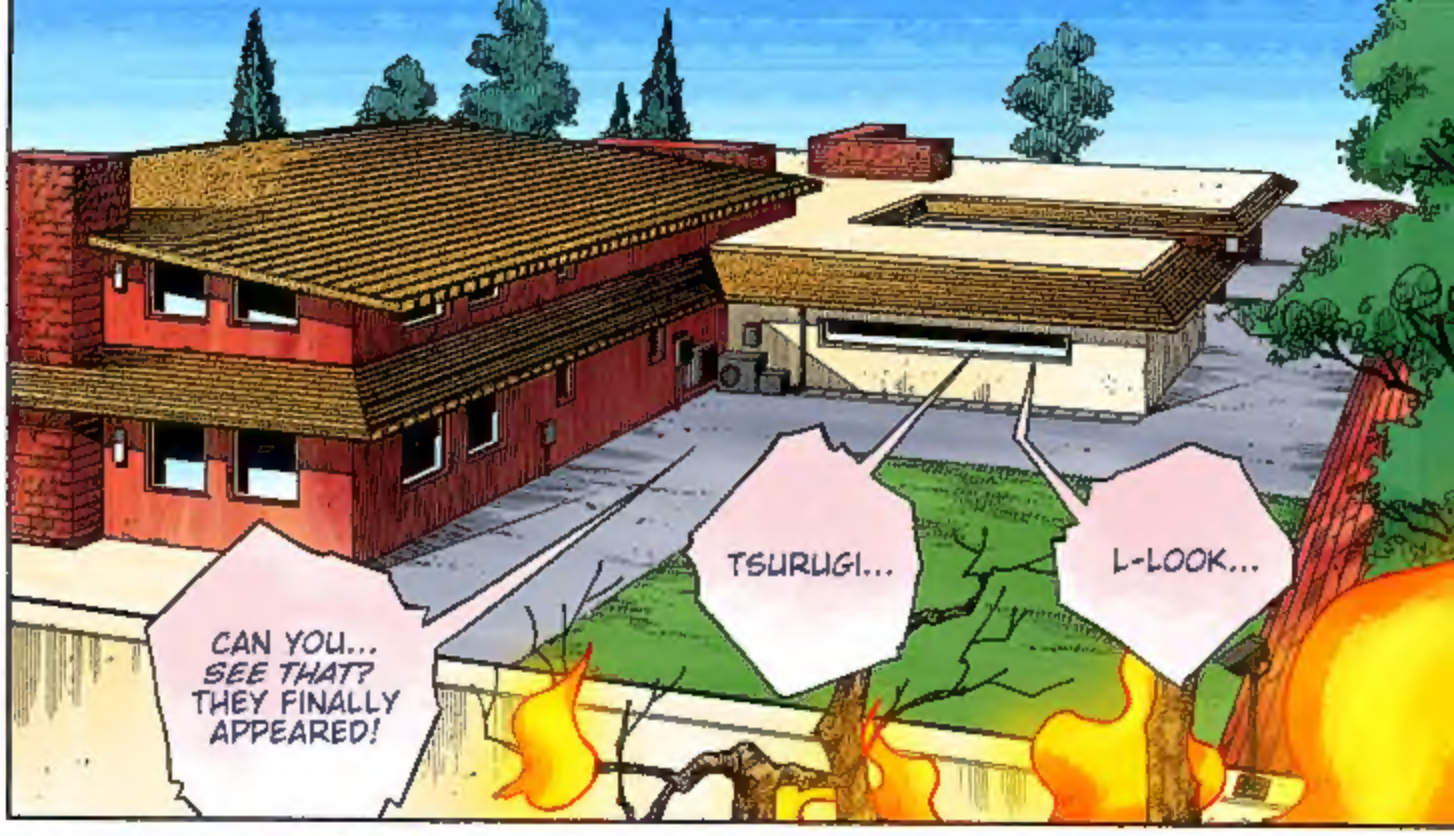

EVERY YEAR, THE BOY RESEARCHED AND CULTIVATED FRUIT TREES EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE HIGASHIKATA FRUIT PARLOR.
EVER SINCE THEN-

GAHU

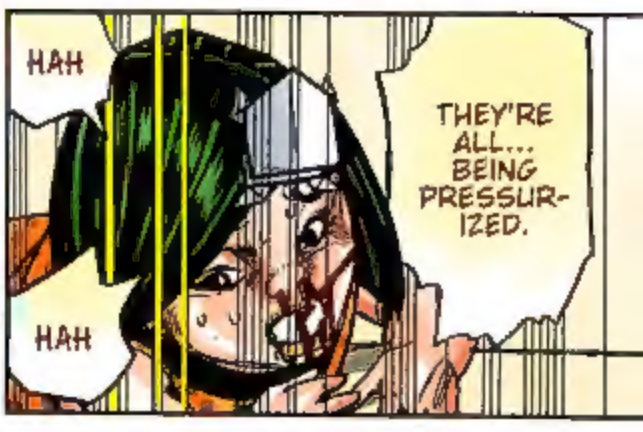
ドシャア
DOSHAAH
THE 'BRANCH'!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO 'MAMEZUKU RAI'?!
UU
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

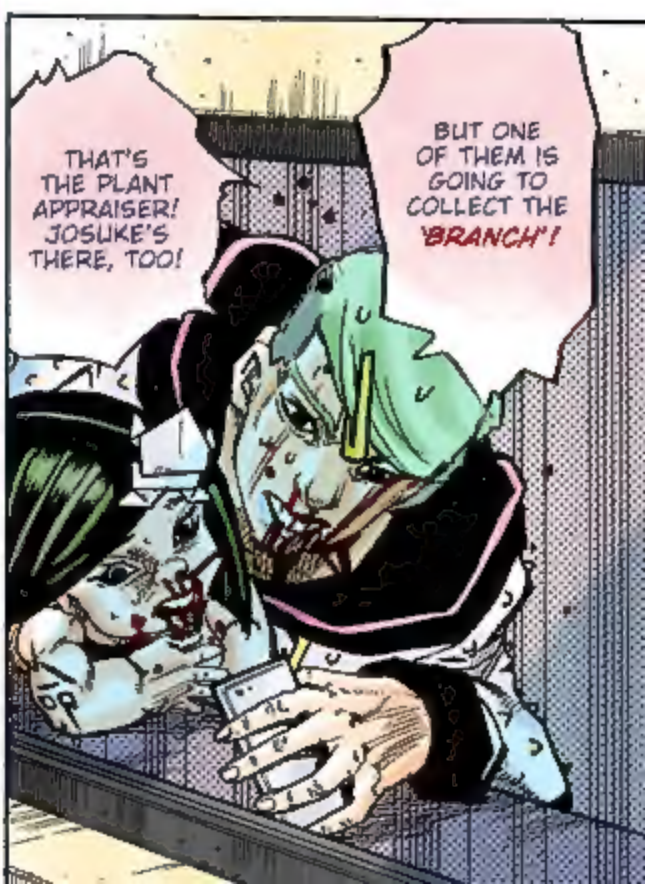
GOH
MAMEZUKU-SAN...
GAHAH
MA...
H! H! H! H!
DOSHAN
!!
ドド DO
ドド DO
ドド DO
THE ROKAKAKA 'BRANCH'!!


CAN YOU... SEE THAT? THEY FINALLY APPEARED!
TSURUGI...
L-LOOK...

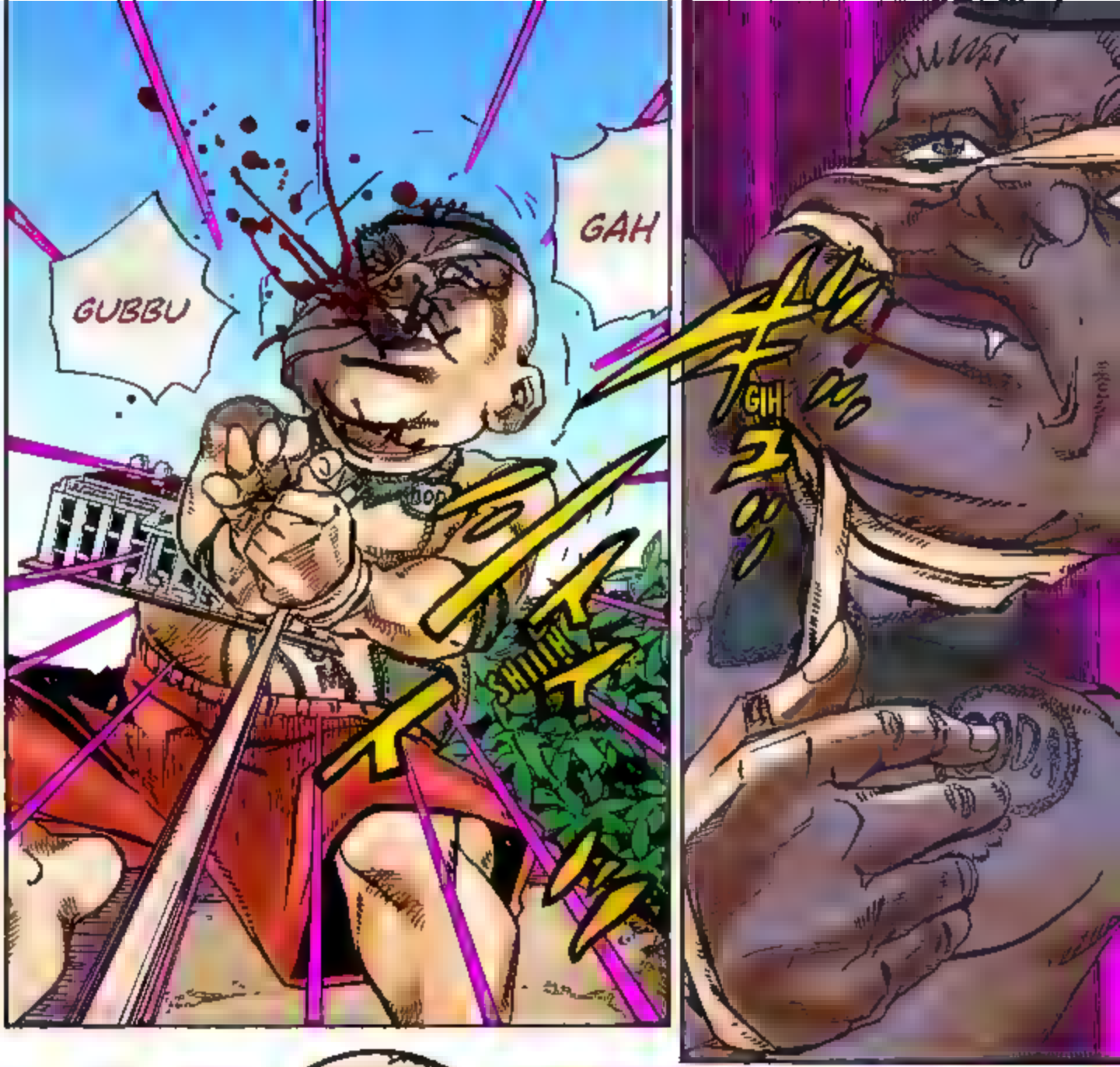
HAA
HAA
HAA
ドド
DO
DO
DO

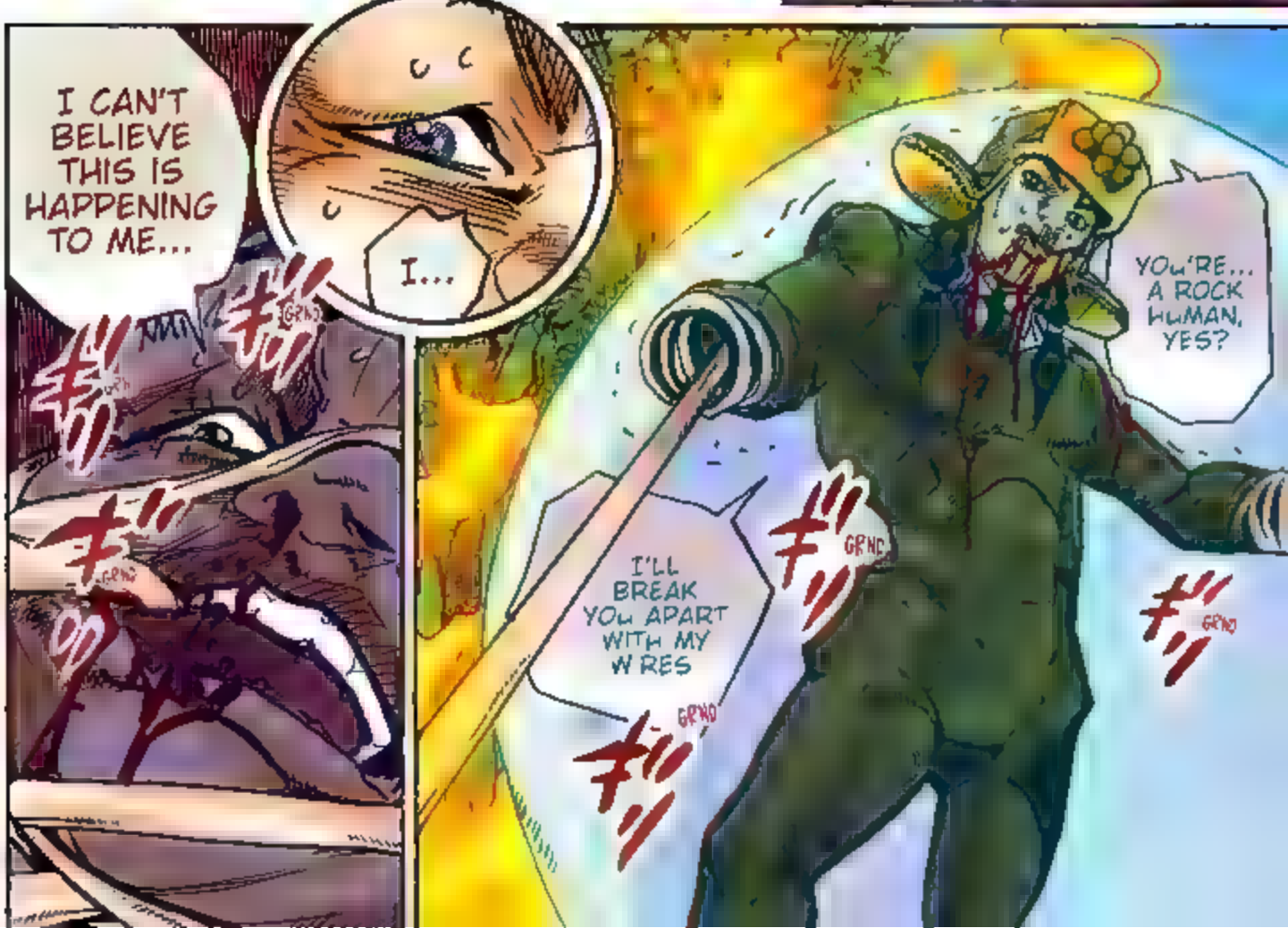

HAH
HAH
THEY'RE ALL... BEING PRESSUR-IZED.

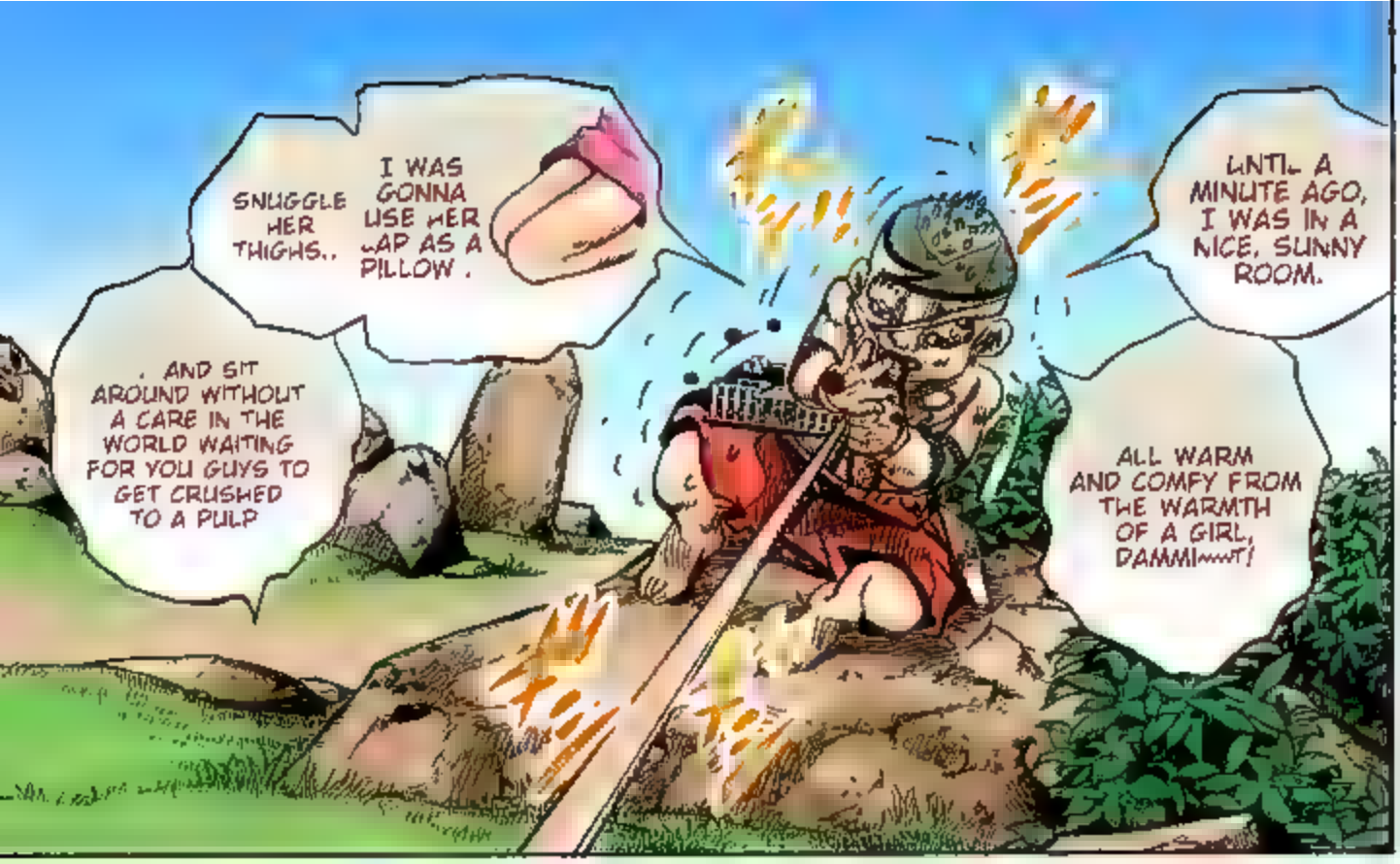
KUKU


THAT'S THE PLANT APPRAISER! JOSUKE'S THERE, TOO!
BUT ONE OF THEM IS GOING TO COLLECT THE 'BRANCH'!

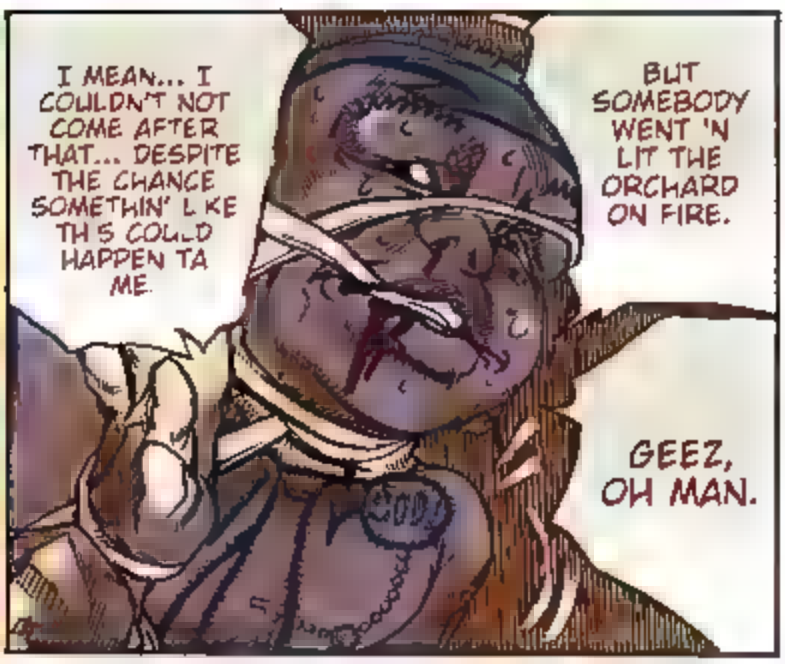
GIH...
GUH...
GRND
GRND
GRND
GRND
GRND
HYUNN
GUEH
WHRL

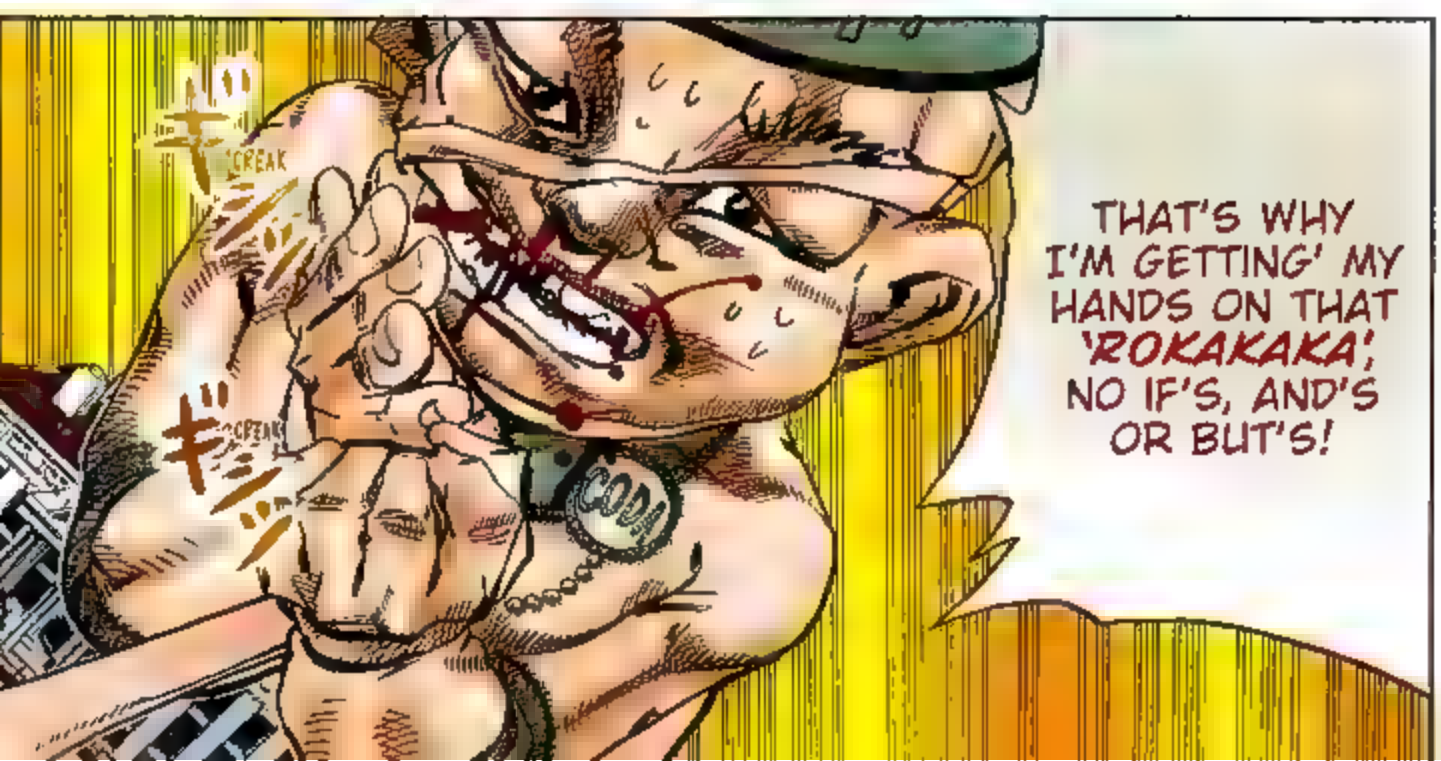

GUBBU
GAH
SHIIIK
GIH


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME...
I...
GRND
YOU'RE... A ROCK HUMAN, YES?
I'LL BREAK YOU APART WITH MY WRES
GRND

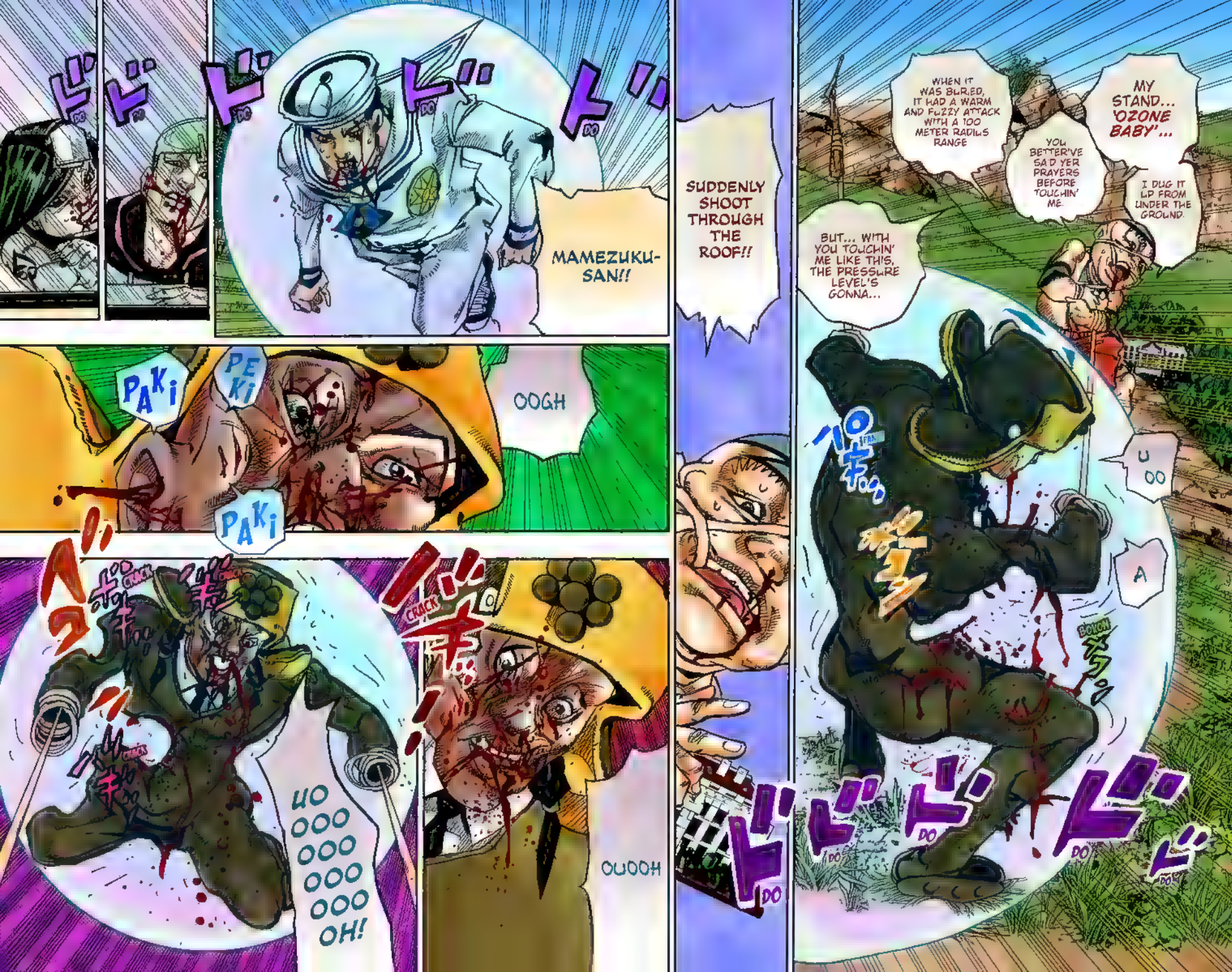

SNUGGLE HER THIGHS..
I WAS GONNA USE HER LAP AS A PILLOW.
UNTIL A MINUTE AGO, I WAS IN A NICE, SUNNY ROOM.
. AND SIT AROUND WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD WAITING FOR YOU GUYS TO GET CRUSHED TO A PULP
ALL WARM AND COMFY FROM THE WARMTH OF A GIRL, DAMMI~~~T!

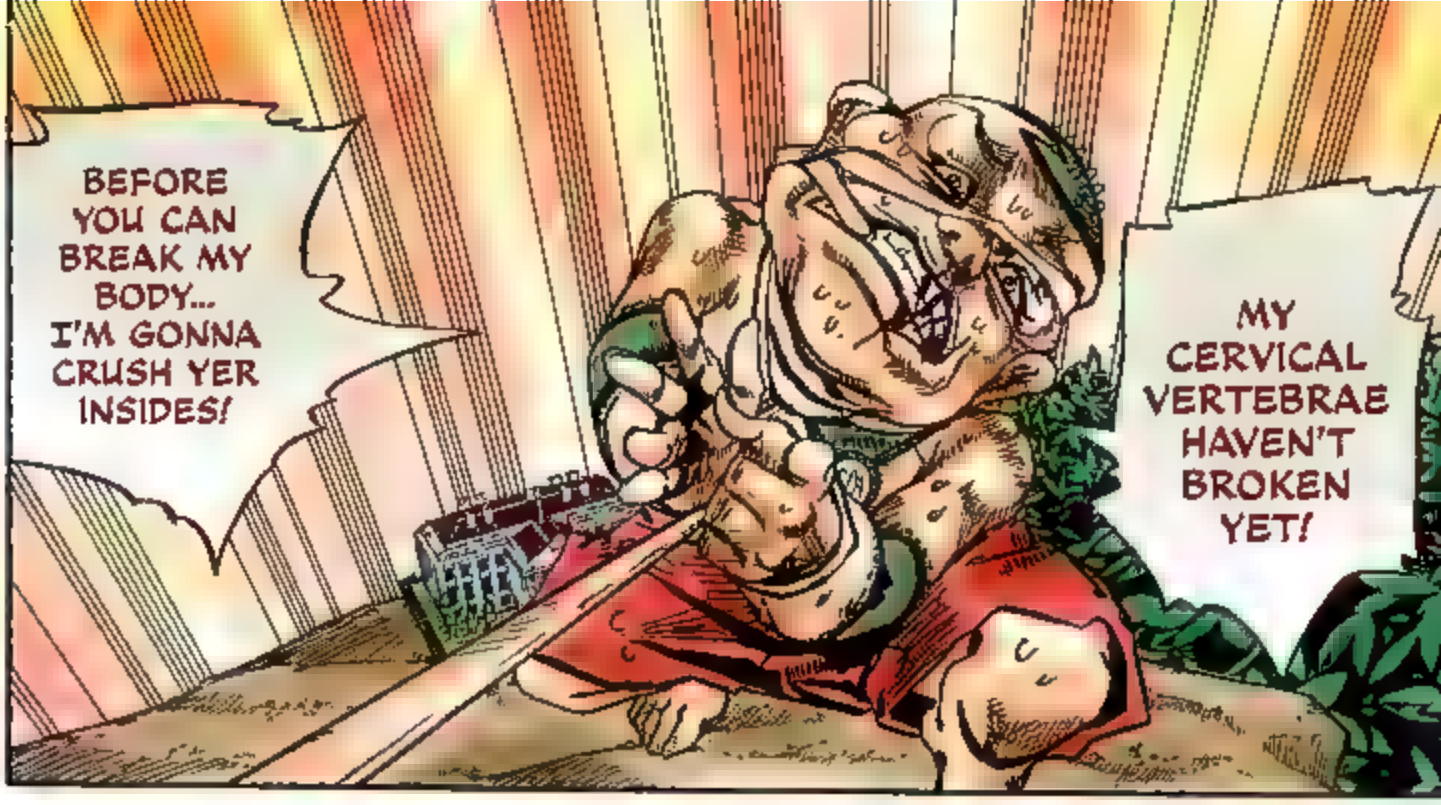
CLANG!

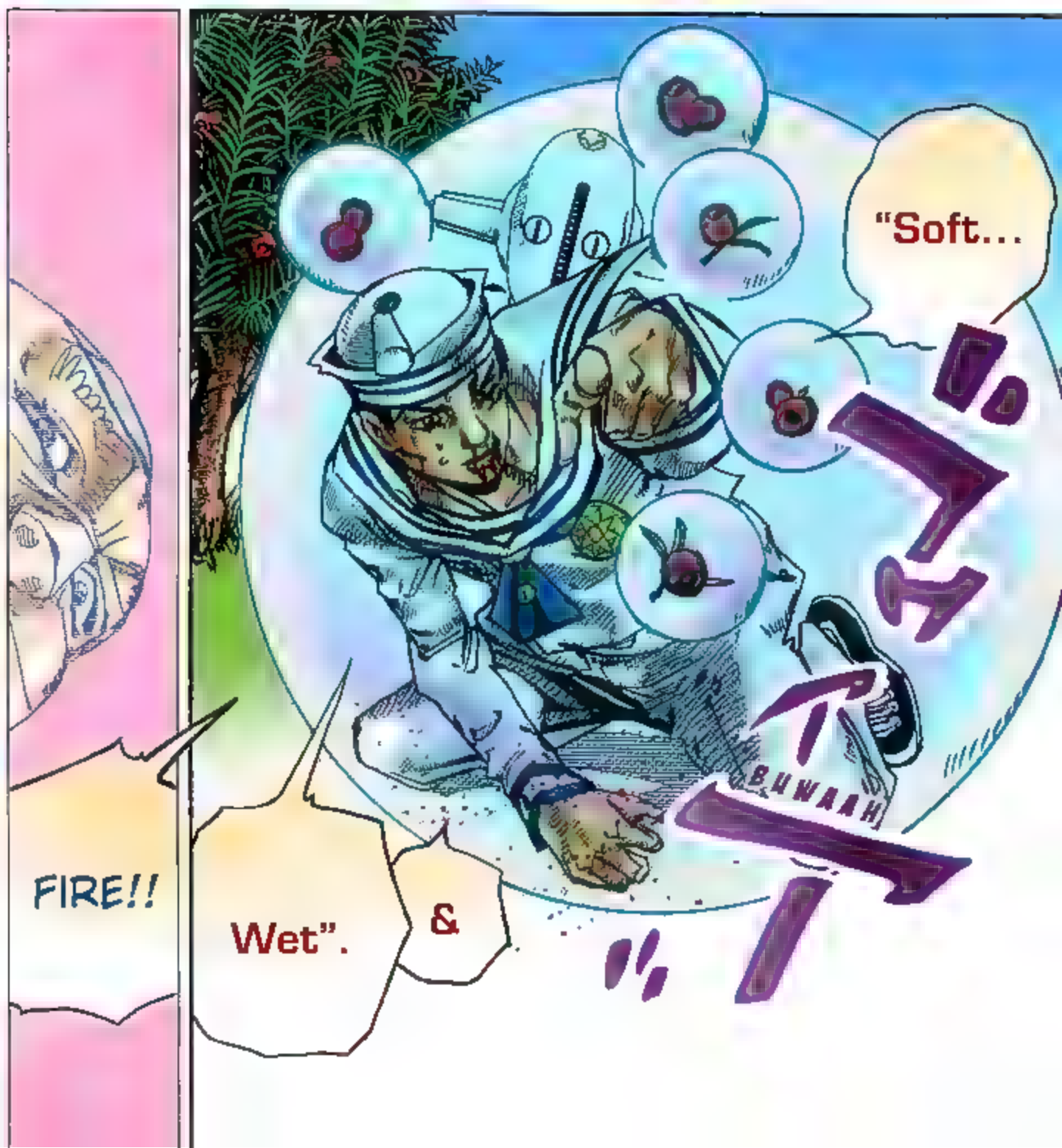

I MEAN... I COULDN'T NOT COME AFTER THAT... DESPITE THE CHANCE SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN TA ME.
BUT SOMEBODY WENT 'N LIT THE ORCHARD ON FIRE.
GEEZ, OH MAN.

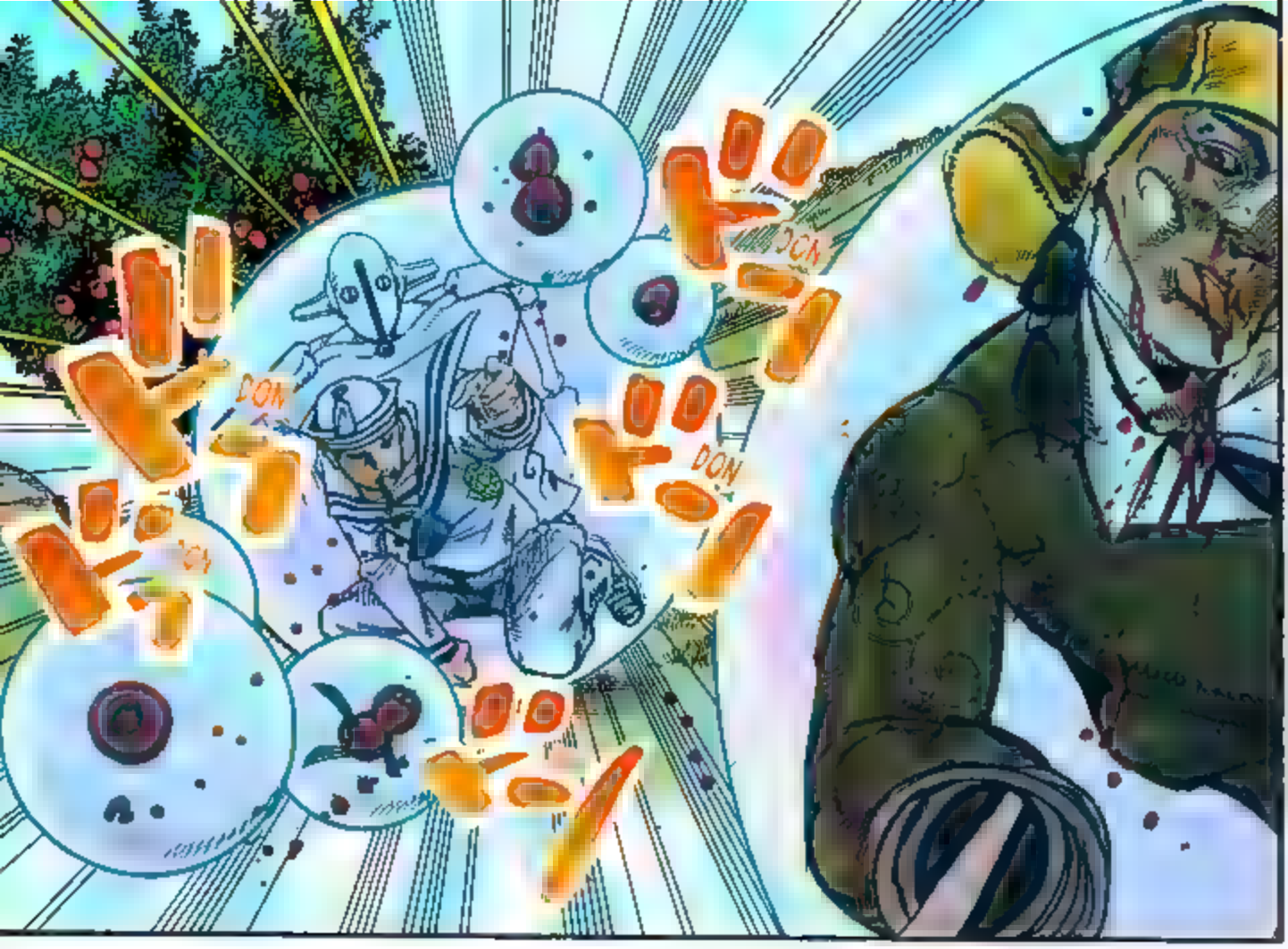

CREAK
CREAK
THAT'S WHY I'M GETTING' MY HANDS ON THAT 'ROKAKAKA', NO IF'S, AND'S OR BUT'S!

PRESSURE INCREASE!
CREK
CREAK
GA BUH
!?
PAPAH
POKI
POKI
MEKOHN


MY STAND... 'OZONE BABY'...
WHEN IT WAS BURIED, IT HAD A WARM AND FUZZY ATTACK WITH A 100 METER RADIUS RANGE
YOU BETTER'VE SAID YER PRAYERS BEFORE TOUCHIN' ME.
I DUG IT UP FROM UNDER THE GROUND.
BUT... WITH YOU TOUCHIN' ME LIKE THIS, THE PRESSURE LEVEL'S GONNA...
U OO
A
BOKOH
SUDDENLY SHOOT THROUGH THE ROOF!!
MAMEZUKU-SAN!!
OOGH
PAKi
PEKi
PAKi
CRACK
UO OOO OOO OOO OH!
OUOOH


BEFORE YOU CAN BREAK MY BODY... I'M GONNA CRUSH YER INSIDES!
MY CERVICAL VERTEBRAE HAVEN'T BROKEN YET!


FIRE!!
Wet".
&
"Soft...
BUWAAH


DON
DON
DON
DON

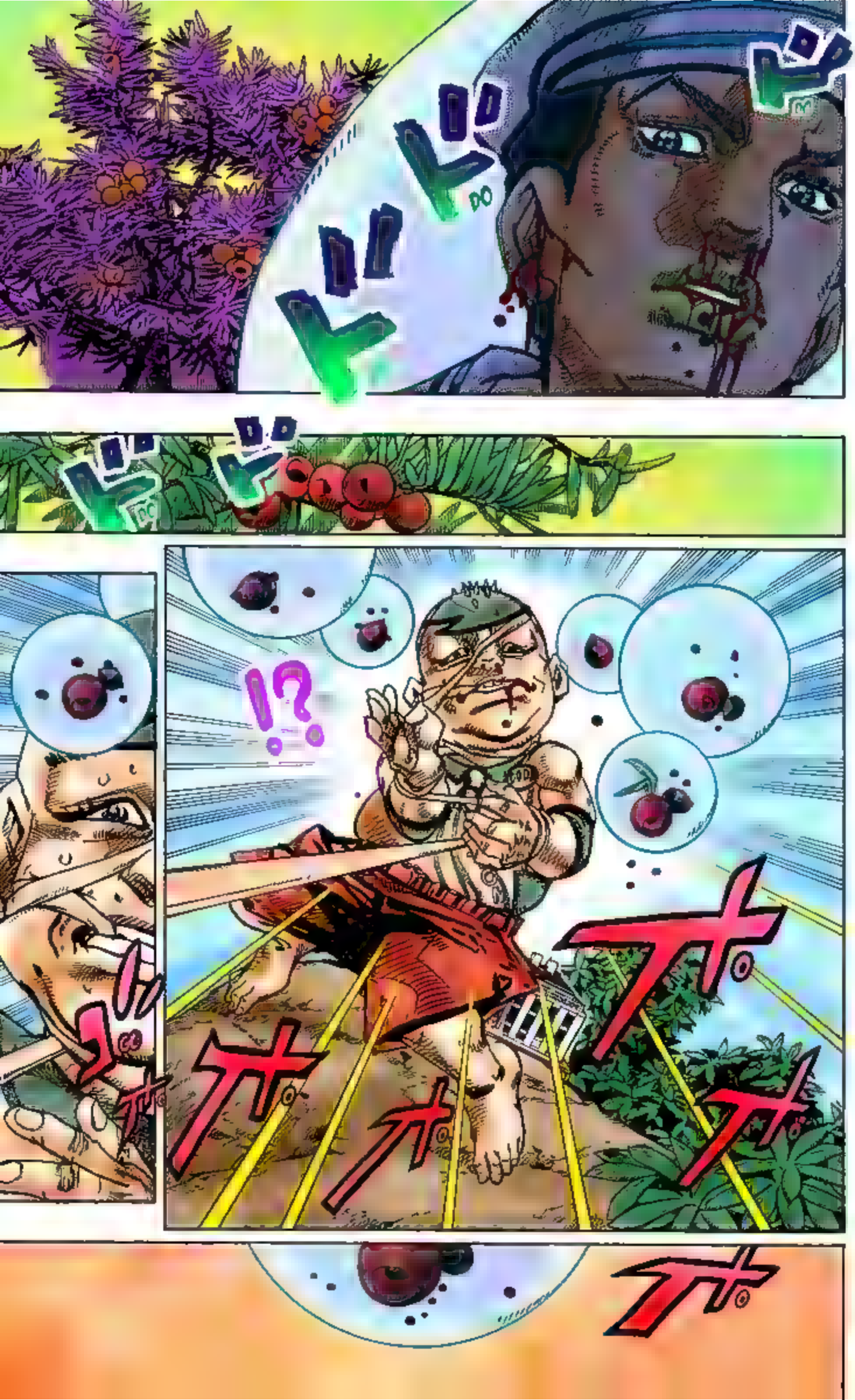
GOH

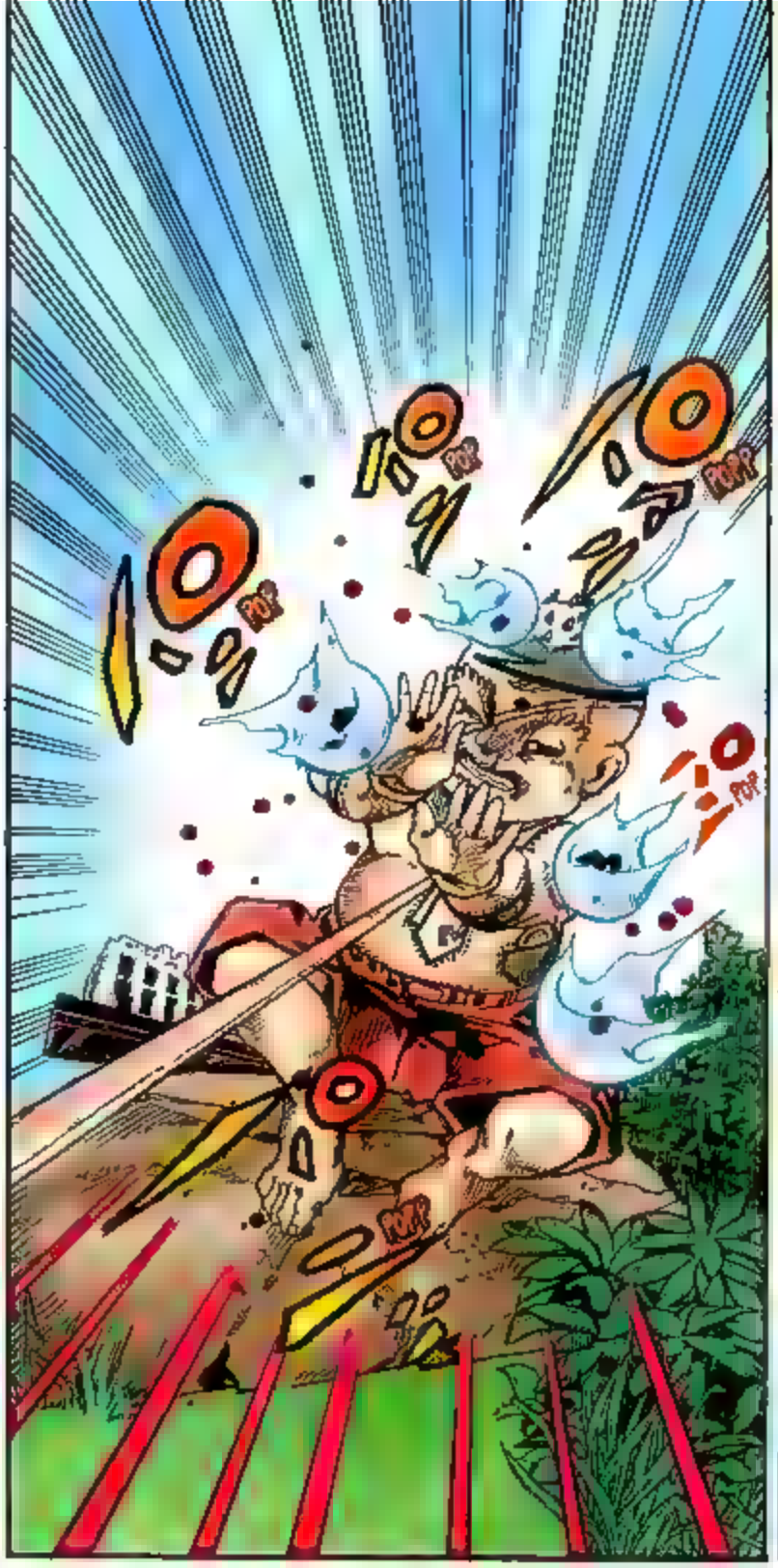
ゴロ
GOH

ゴロ
GO
ゴ
ゴ

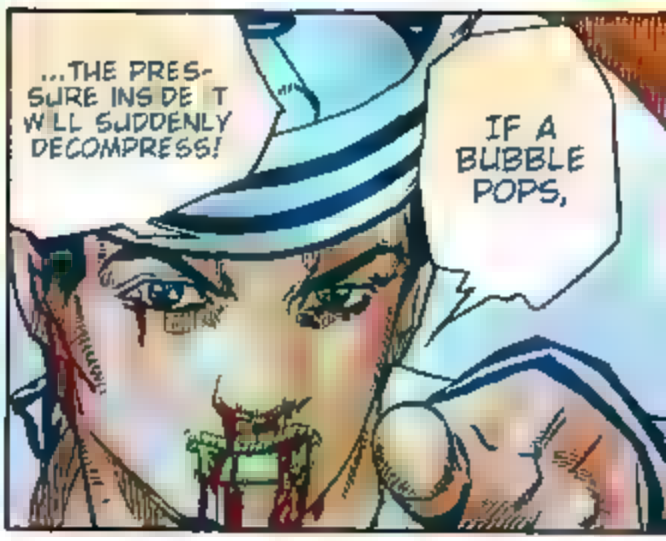
THEIR LEAVES AND BRANCHES ARE USED IN SHINTO RITUALS BUT .
THERE ARE 'YEW' TREES GROWING IN THE HIGASHI KATA ORCHARD
I'LL SAY THIS. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU DIDN'T 'GRAFT' THE ROKAKAKA 'BRANCH' TO A YEW BRANCH

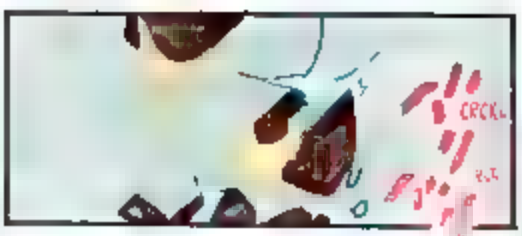
IT'S A GOOD THING THE ROKAKAKA BRANCH ISN'T GRAFTED TO ONE OF THESE
ESPECIALLY IF YOU PUT THE 'SEEDS' IN YOUR MOUTH
THESE THINGS ARE DEADLY POISON THEY'LL DO EXTREME DAMAGE TO YOUR INSIDES.

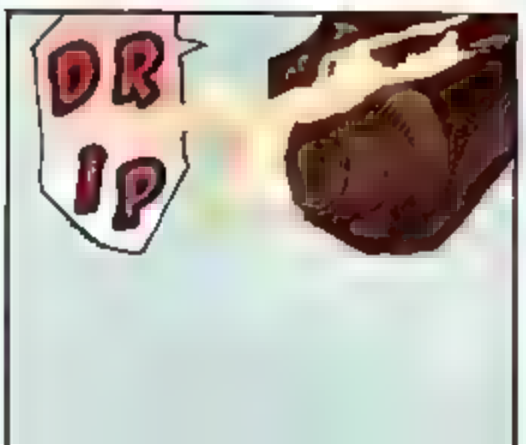

ドドド
ドドド
!?
ドドド
ドドド

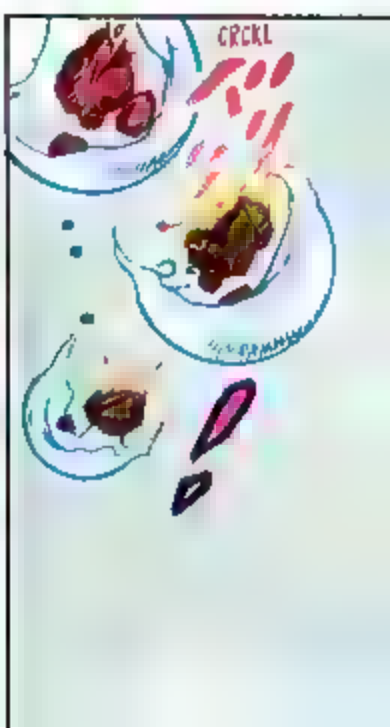

POP
POP
POP
POP
POP

THE SOAP BUBBLE WALLS
!
THE SOAP BUBBLES
ACT AS A 'BARRIER' FOR WHAT'S INSIDE THEM

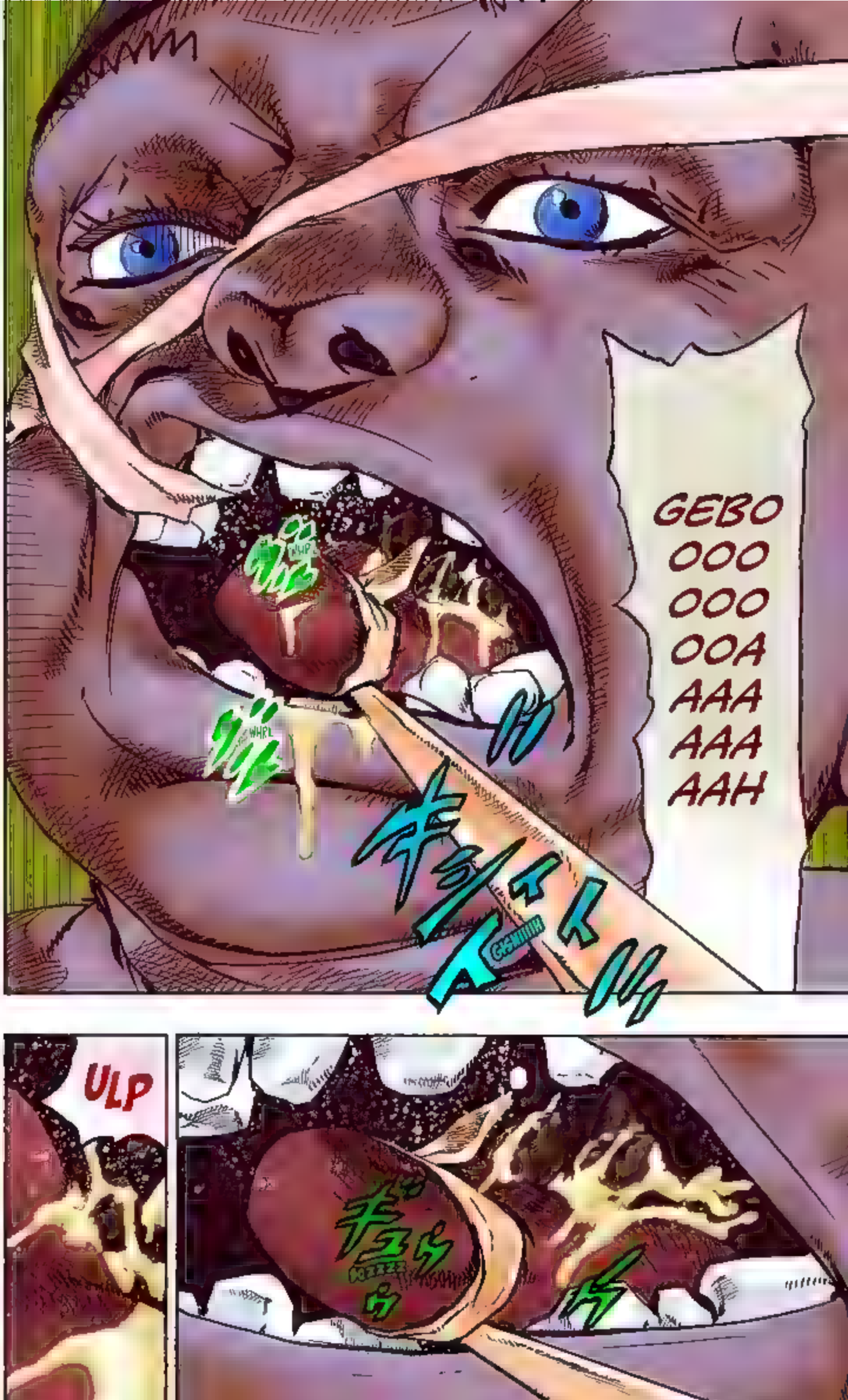

...THE PRESSURE INSIDE IT WILL SUDDENLY DECOMPRESS!
IF A BUBBLE POPS,


CRCKL

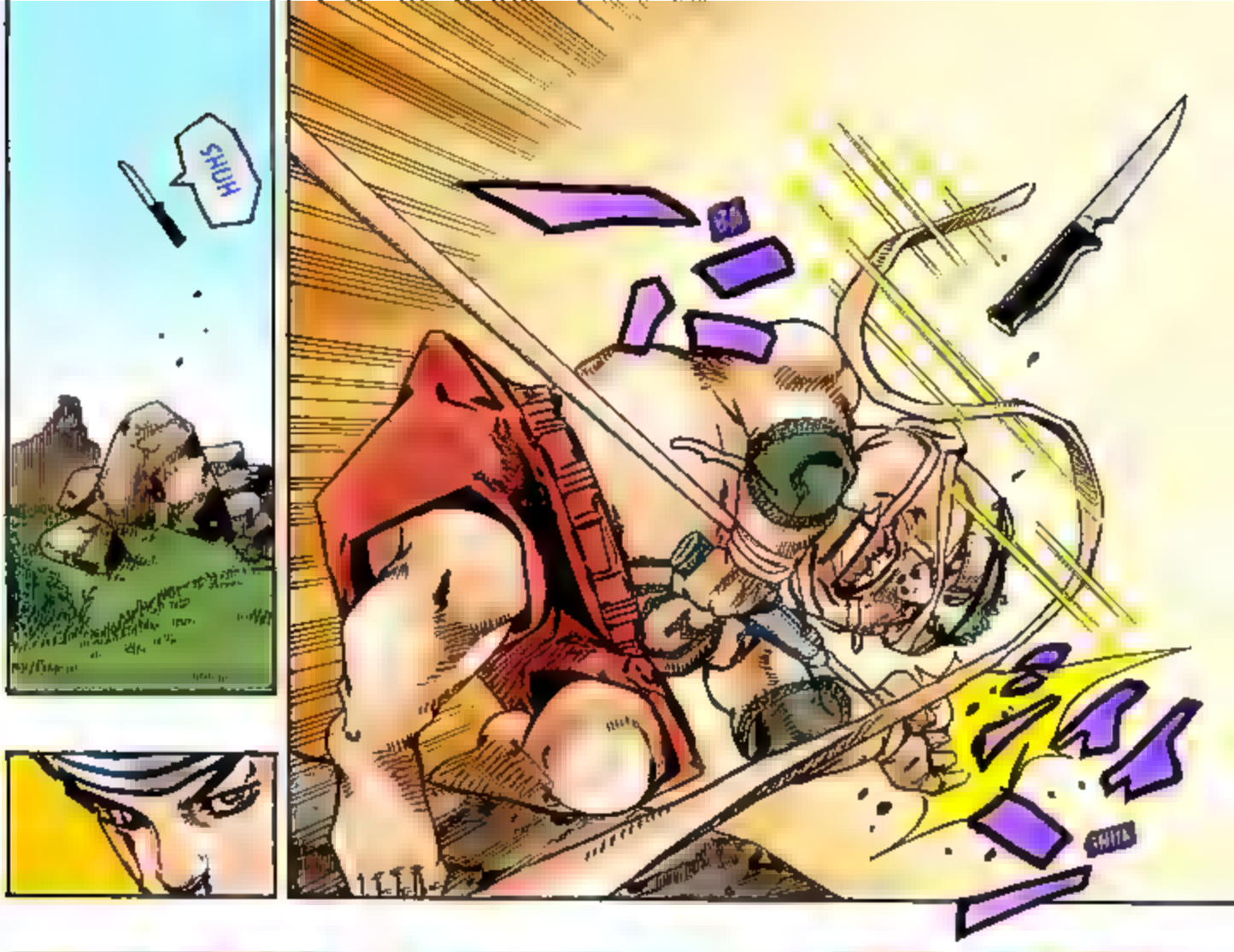

DR
IP

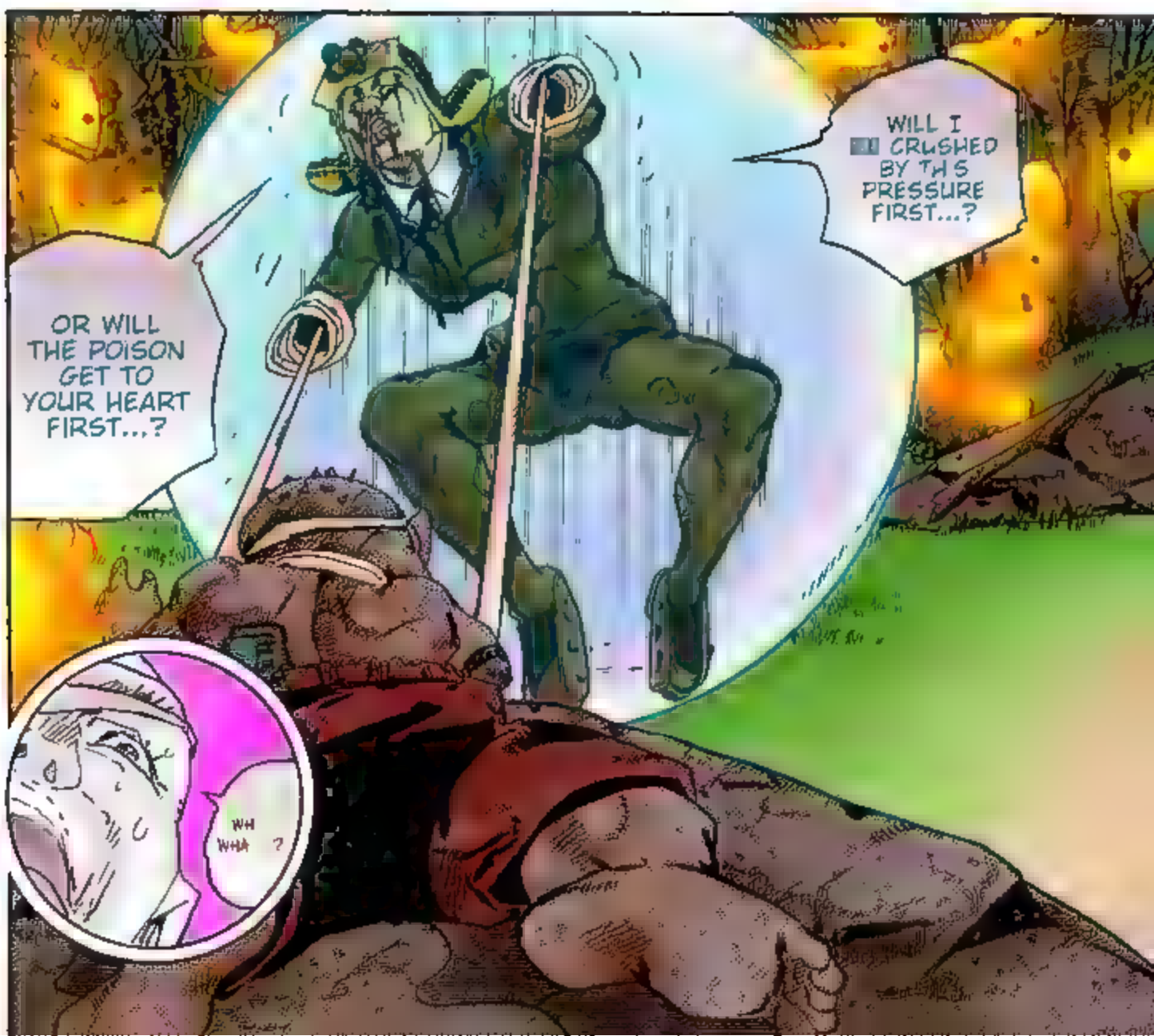

CRCKL
!

SHUH
HIL
HIL


GEBO
OOO
OOO
OOA
AAA
AAA
AAH
ULP

IT CAN EVEN KILL LARGE-SIZED LIVESTOCK
WHEN YEW POISON IS ABSORBED BY DIGESTIVE ORGANS, IT'S SENT STRAIGHT TO THE HEART AND CAUSES BLOOD PRESSURE TO GO OFF THE CHARTS, VIOLENT CONVULSIONS, AND TEARS INTERNAL ORGANS TO SHREDS!
YEWS ARE AS POISONOUS AS YOU CAN GET!
'ENGLISH YEW' SEEDS WERE USED BY AUTHOR AGATHA CHRISTIE IN HER BOOKS AS A TRICK TO KILL SOMEONE BY PUTTING ONE IN A SPOONFUL OF JAM!
GUUA AAAA AAA
HLP
GA...
GUE
HAA
HAA
HAA


SHUH
SHITA


OR WILL THE POISON GET TO YOUR HEART FIRST...?
WILL I BE CRUSHED BY THIS PRESSURE FIRST...?
WH WHA ?

BUT WHAT I WANTED TA USE . WASN'T THE 'KNIFE'!
IF YOU THINK I WAS TRYIN' TA USE THAT KNIFE TA CUT YER WIRES, I HATE TA BREAK IT TO YA.
WHAT I NEEDED WAS THE 'SHEATH'!!
CLATAM
HOW 'BOUT S'MORE PRESSURE?!!
GUH
AND, CLOSED!
WHEN IT GETS PRESSED BETWEEN SOMETHIN', IT ENDS UP LIKE IT'S ENCLOSED BY WALLS, RIGHT . ?

ZUGU

BUCHIN

MAME-ZUKU-SAN!

DOBAH

BUSHHH

GOO

THE PLANT APPRAISER LOST.

THE 'BRANCH'!

HE TOOK THE ROKAKAKA 'BRANCH'!

POOR TOM S LEAVING THE ORCHARD!

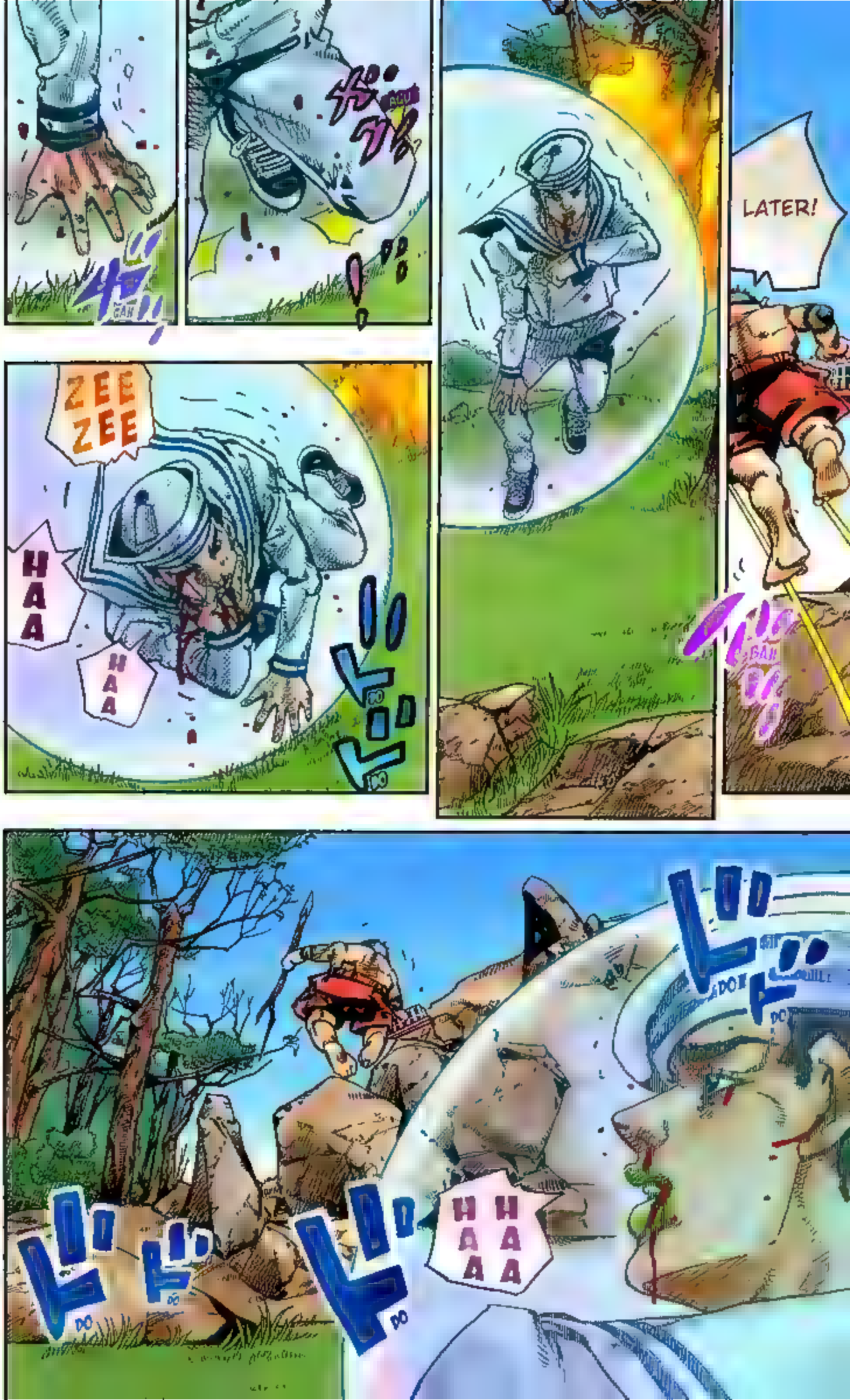
DOSHAH

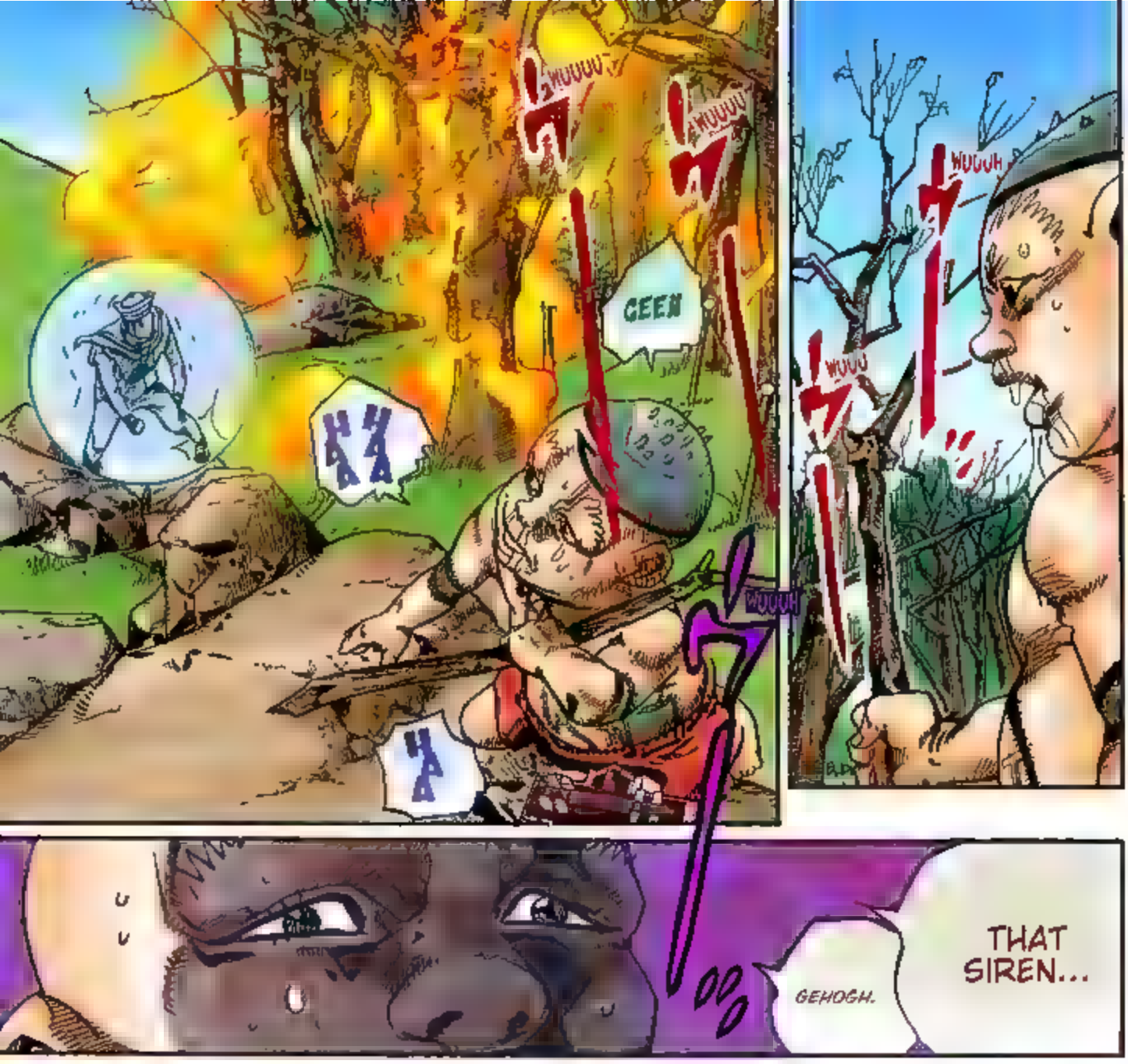
DOOOH

BOII
GHSHAAH
BUH
YES, I DID IT!

I... I WOMMMN!!!
FUCK YOU, ASSHOLE!
GAHAH
GUEH
RARAH
UBOH
YOU MIGHT BE BETTER OFF HIGHTAILING IT OUTTA HERE, KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIIN'?
IT'LL HAPPEN TA YOU, TOO
THE CLOSER YA GET TA MY 'OZONE BABY',
THE STRONGER THE 'PRESSURE' IS GONNA GET...
GE... GEEH...
HIGASHIKATA JOSUKE ?
BUT'RE YOU GONNA FOLLOW ME,
GE BOH
HAA
HAA
HAA
GUH
DOZNNN
ドロッ

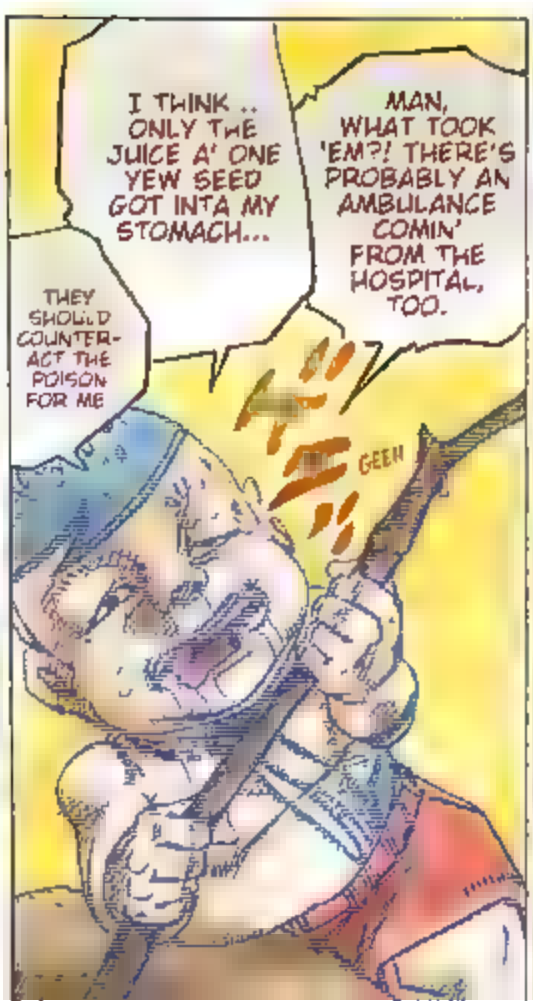
THE 'BRANCH' IS MIIII-IINE!!
GUEH GEH
ZEEH ZEEH
I... I GOT IT.
HAA HAA HAA
GAH
GASHH


GAH
ACK
LATER!
ZEE ZEE
HAA HAA
DO DO
DO DO DO DO
HA HA HA HA

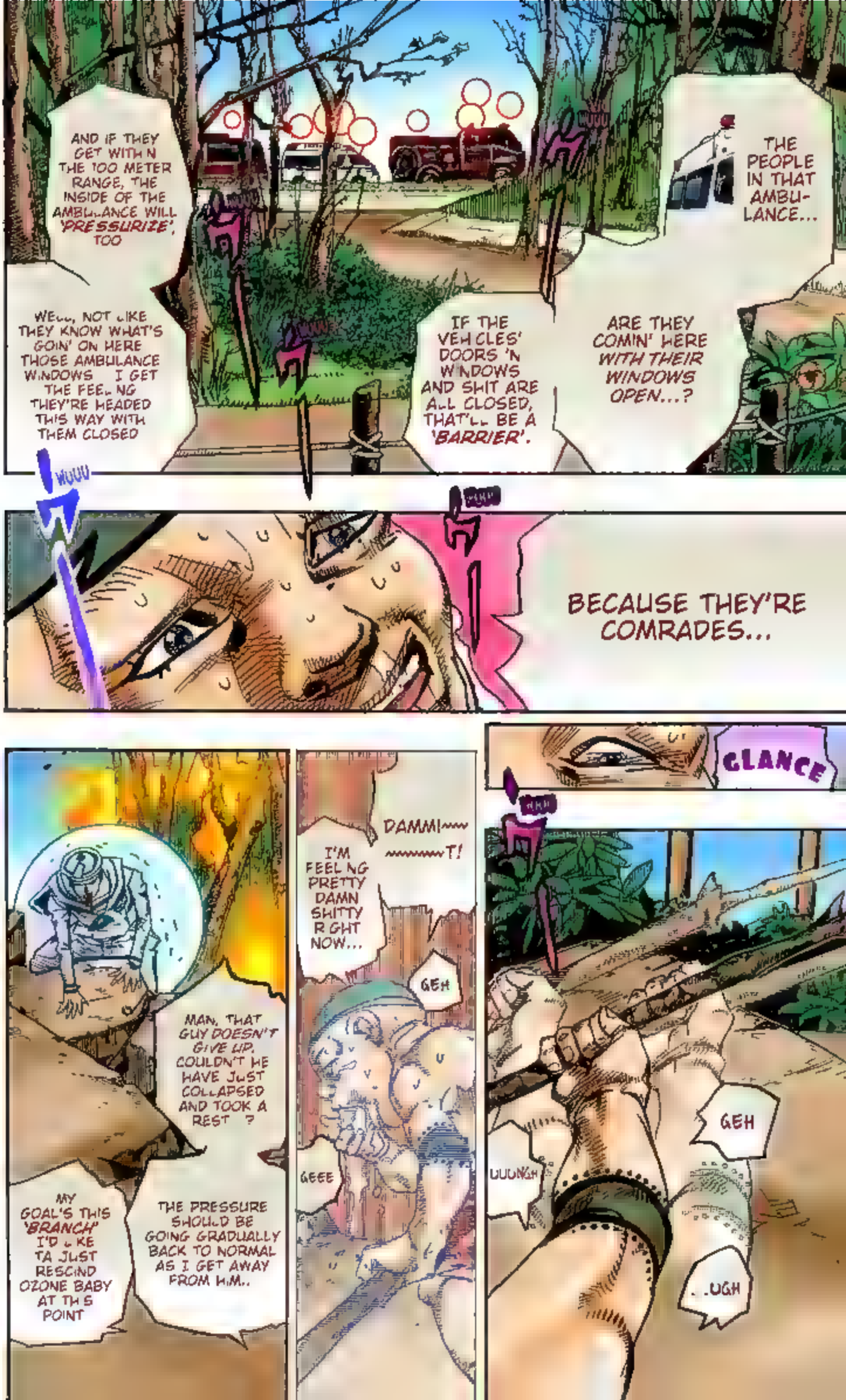

WUUUU
WUUUU
GEEN
WUUUH
WUUUH
WUUU
WUUUH

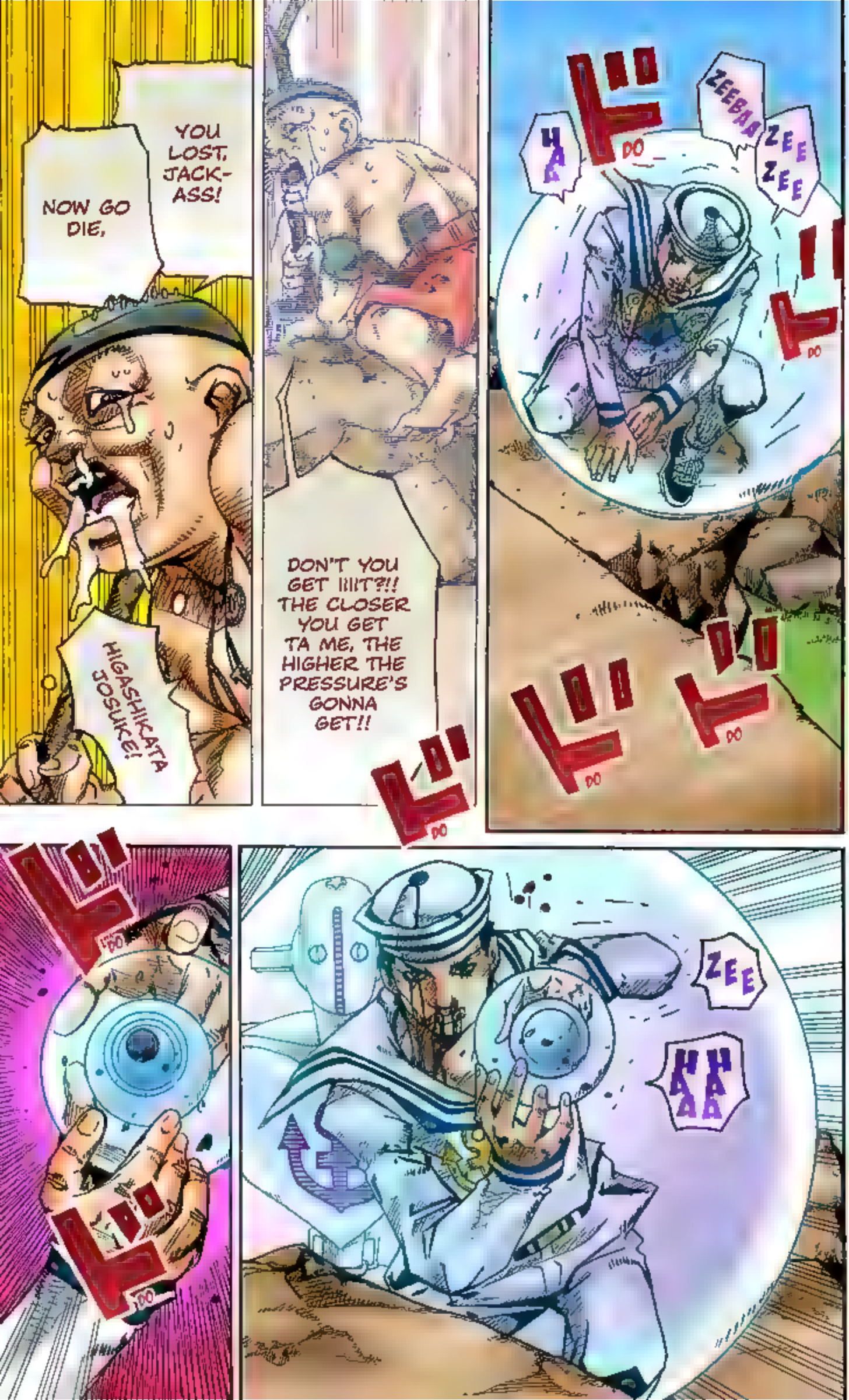
GEHOGH.
THAT SIREN...

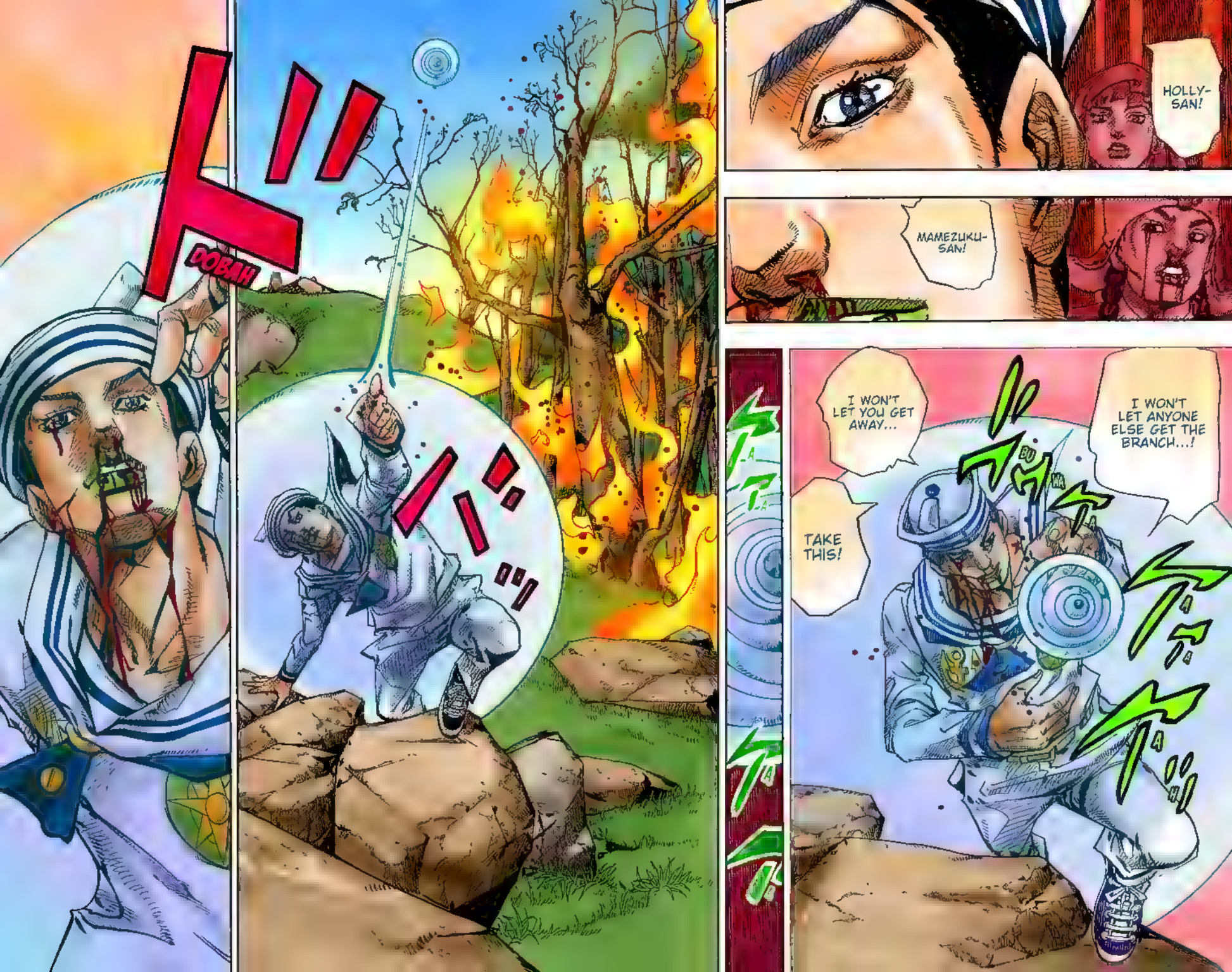
BUT THE WINDOWS A' THOSE VEHICLES——


I THINK .. ONLY THE JUICE A' ONE YEW SEED GOT INTA MY STOMACH...
MAN, WHAT TOOK 'EM?! THERE'S PROBABLY AN AMBULANCE COMIN' FROM THE HOSPITAL, TOO.
THEY SHOULD COUNTER-ACT THE POISON FOR ME
GEEH

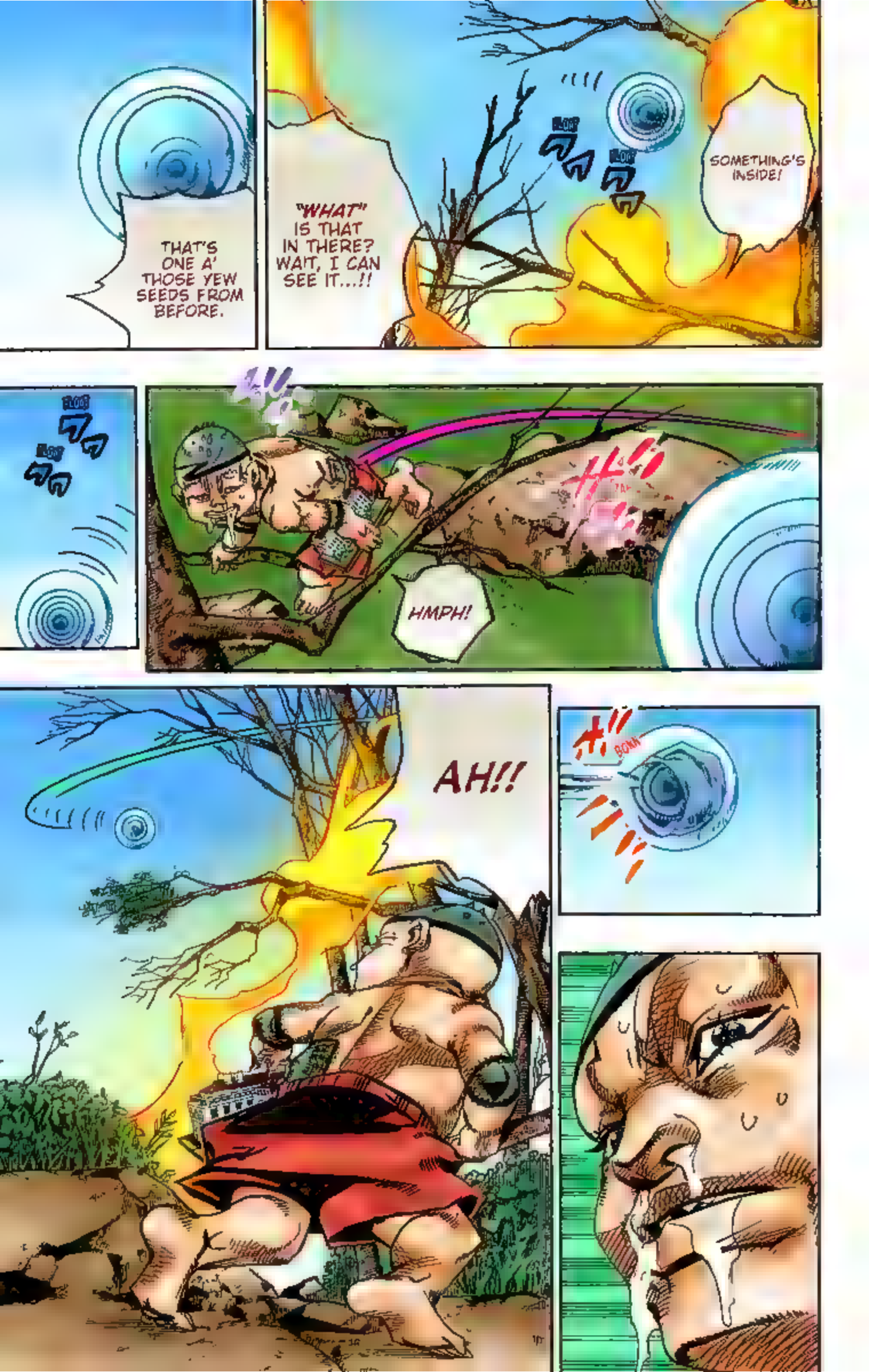
WUUU
WUUU
IT'S A FIRE-ENGINE.
WUUU
IT'S PROBABLY COMIN' THIS WAY .
I MEAN, THERE'S A FIRE 'N SHIT


AND IF THEY GET WITH N THE 100 METER RANGE, THE INSIDE OF THE AMBULANCE WILL 'PRESSURIZE', TOO
WELL, NOT LIKE THEY KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE THOSE AMBULANCE WINDOWS I GET THE FEEL NG THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY WITH THEM CLOSED
IF THE VEH CLES' DOORS 'N WINDOWS AND SHIT ARE ALL CLOSED, THAT'LL BE A 'BARRIER'.
ARE THEY COMIN' HERE WITH THEIR WINDOWS OPEN...?
THE PEOPLE IN THAT AMBU-LANCE...
WUUU
BECAUSE THEY'RE COMRADES...
MAN, THAT GUY DOESN'T GIVE UP. COULDN'T HE HAVE JUST COLLAPSED AND TOOK A REST ?
MY GOAL'S THIS 'BRANCH' I'D LIKE TA JUST RESCIND OZONE BABY AT TH S POINT
THE PRESSURE SHOULD BE GOING GRADUALLY BACK TO NORMAL AS I GET AWAY FROM H.M..
I'M FEEL NG PRETTY DAMN SHITTY R GHT NOW...
DAMM!~~~ ~~~~~T!
GEH
GEEE
GLANCE
GEH
UUUNGH
..UGH

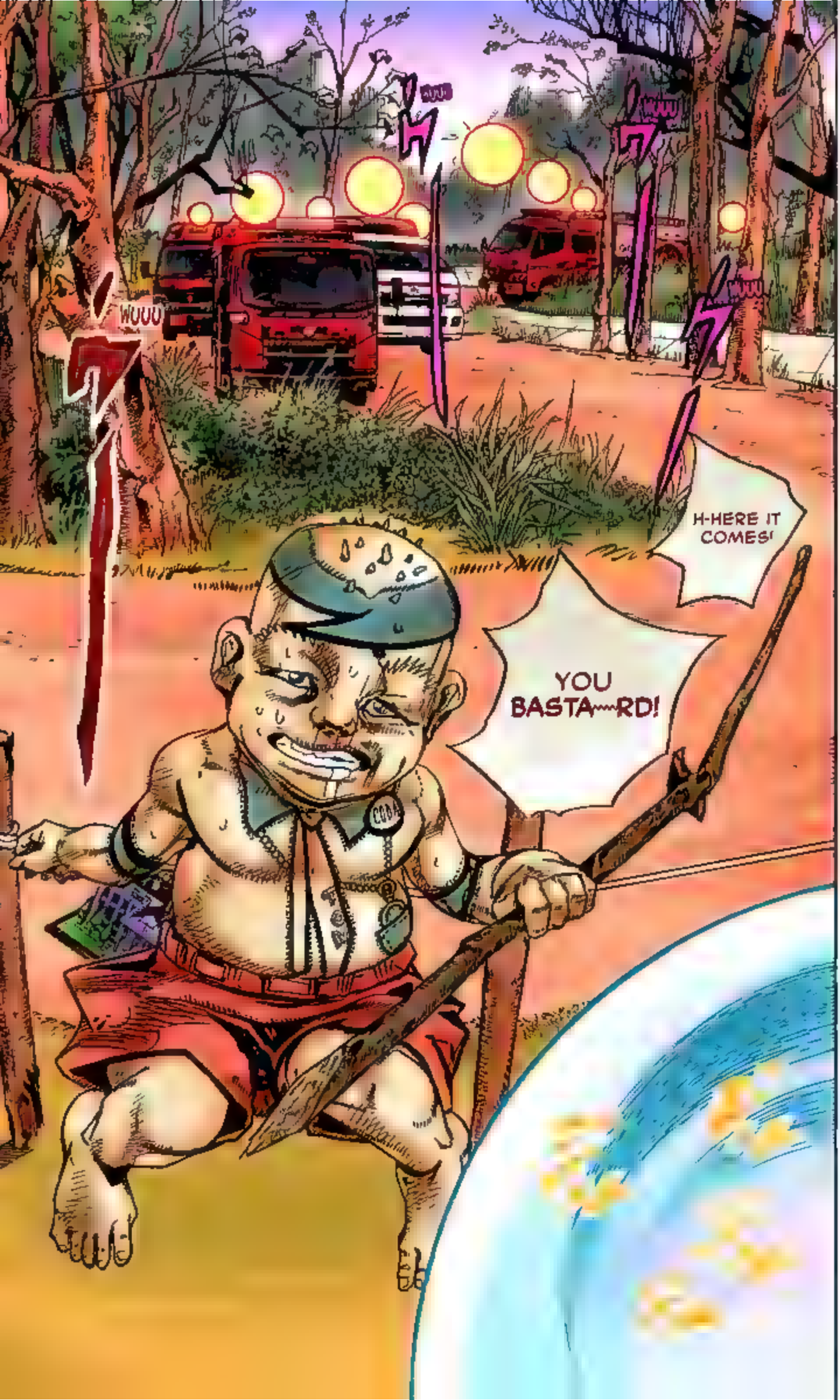

YOU LOST, JACK-ASS!
NOW GO DIE,
HIGASHIKATA JOSUKE!
DON'T YOU GET IIIIT?!! THE CLOSER YOU GET TA ME, THE HIGHER THE PRESSURE'S GONNA GET!!
DO
HA
ZEEBAA
ZEE
ZEE


HOLLY-SAN!
MAMEZUKU-SAN!
DOBAH
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY...
TAKE THIS!
I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE GET THE BRANCH...!
BU
WA

IT'S HEADIN' TOWARDS ME
JOSUKE..
?
!!
IS HE TRYIN' TA HIT ME WIT THAT..?
HE JUST SHOT SOMETHIN' UP INTA THE AIR.
FLOAT
FLOAT
WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S UH...
WRAPPED IN OTHER SOAP BUBBLES!
IT'S SHAPED LIKE A MILLE-FEUILLE
A SOAP BUBBLE...


THAT'S ONE A' THOSE YEW SEEDS FROM BEFORE.
"WHAT" IS THAT IN THERE? WAIT, I CAN SEE IT...!!
SOMETHING'S INSIDE!
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP
HMPH!
AH!!
AH!!
BOWN

IT'S BREAKIN' ONE LAYER AT A TIME!
ONE OF THE SOAP BUBBLES POPPED! AND THEN THE DIRECTION IT'S MOVIN' IN CHANGED TOO!!
WH- 'WHAT THE HELL' IS INSIDE THERE?!
THE CLOSER IT GETS TA ME, THE STRONGER THE PRESSURE'S GETTIN'.
FLOAT
FLOAT
FLOAT
GEH!
UUH!
UOOH!
BANK
ANOTHER ONE POPPED!


WUUU
H-HERE IT COMES!
YOU BASTA---RD!

#076 STONE
BABY'S
PRESSURE
PART 4

DO DO DO

THE 'BRANCH' IS MINE! MY 'VICTORY'S' ALL WRAPPED UP NOW, DON'T YOU GET IT?!

FLOAT FLOAT FLOAT

WHAT THE HELL... THAT PIECE A' SHIIIIIIIT.

DON'T COME NEAR MEEEE!!

DO DO

MESHA MESHA

ZEE H

HA A

HA A

MESHA MESHA MESHA

ZEH

STAY AWAA-AAAY!

ZEH ZEH ZEH

IF YOU JUST STEER CLEAR 'A ME YOU'LL BE SAFE!!

THE WAY 'OZONE BABY' WORKS IS THA CLOSER YA GET TA ME, THE HIGHER THE 'AIR PRESSURE' GOES, DON'T YOU GET IIIT?!!

THERE'S AN AMBU-LANCE!

WAAU!

WUUUU...

AND THERE'RE...

THREE OF 'EM!

THE WINDOWS 'A THE FIRE ENGINES ARE OPEN!

THAT AMBU-LANCE!

IS HEADED THIS WAY WITH IT'S WINDOWS CLOSED!

DAMMIT!

ONE AMBU-LANCE!

FINE. I'LL KNOCK IT OUTTA THE AIR!

HE SHOT THAT THING AT ME WITH SOME-THING INSIDE IT, DIDN' E?!

FLOAT

FLOAT

FLOAT

HUH?!

FLUA

FLUA

FLUAT

FLUAT

IS THERE 'SOMETHING' IN THAT SOAP BUBBLE?

WHAT THE HELL IS IT THIS TIME?

FLOAT

WH-WHAT'S IN THERE....?

NEGIH

FLOAT

FLOAT

NESHAN

TUUUM

JOSUKE YOU FRIGGIN' BASTAAAAARD! JUST GO THE HELL TA SLEEEEEEP!!

BONN

TOSS

TOSS

TOSS

UOOO OOH!!

GEBWEH

GUBUH

STAY AWAAAY!!

GUD

OH

GUBUH

BLEH

GUGD

GEBOH

JUST... FORGET ABOUT THIS 'LOCACACA BRANCH'. YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET IT BACK GODDAMMIT!!

I...

I KNOW... I'LL... GIVE YOU SOME MONEY...

WOULD YOU JUST STOP FOLLOWING ME ALREADY?! I REALLY GOTTA GET TA THE HOSPITAL...

SHUKU SHUKU SHUKU

FLOAT FLOAT FLOAT

JOSUKE HIGASHIKATA... YOU'RE NOT GONNA WIN THIS...

I JUST WANNA GET THE ANTIDOTE TO THE POISON I SWALLOWED!

WE'RE BOTH GETTIN' OUT WITH SOMETHIN' THAT WAY, RIGHT?

SO PLEASE, JUST TAKE THIS MONEY!

I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE. THEN WE CAN ALL LEAVE THIS THING HAPPY

DOOOT

I'LL PAY YA, SO DON'T COME ANY CLOSER AND JUST GO TA SLEEP!

DOSAA

MESHA MESHA

I'LL GIVE YA EVEN MORE MONEY LATER, SO PLEASE, JUST COOL IT!

SNIGL

N-NO!!

THIS... AIN'T GOOD!

GUGI

GEBOH

HIIII GUO

UOAAAA AAAAA! STAY AWAAA-AAAAY!!

BOWN

SNIGL

IF...

IF THAT GETS CLOSE AND POPS, I'M SCREWED!

SNIGL

DAMMIT...

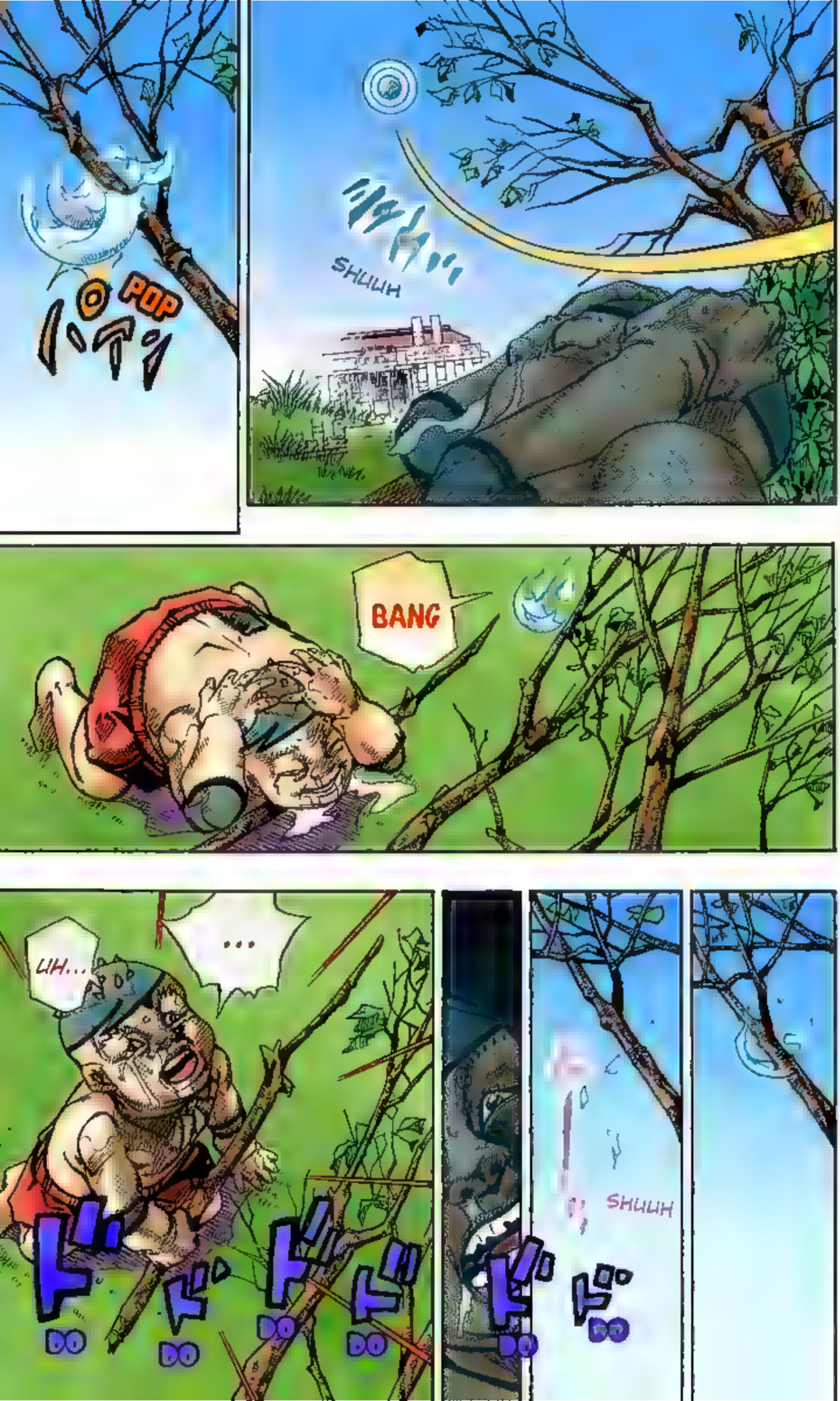
WA

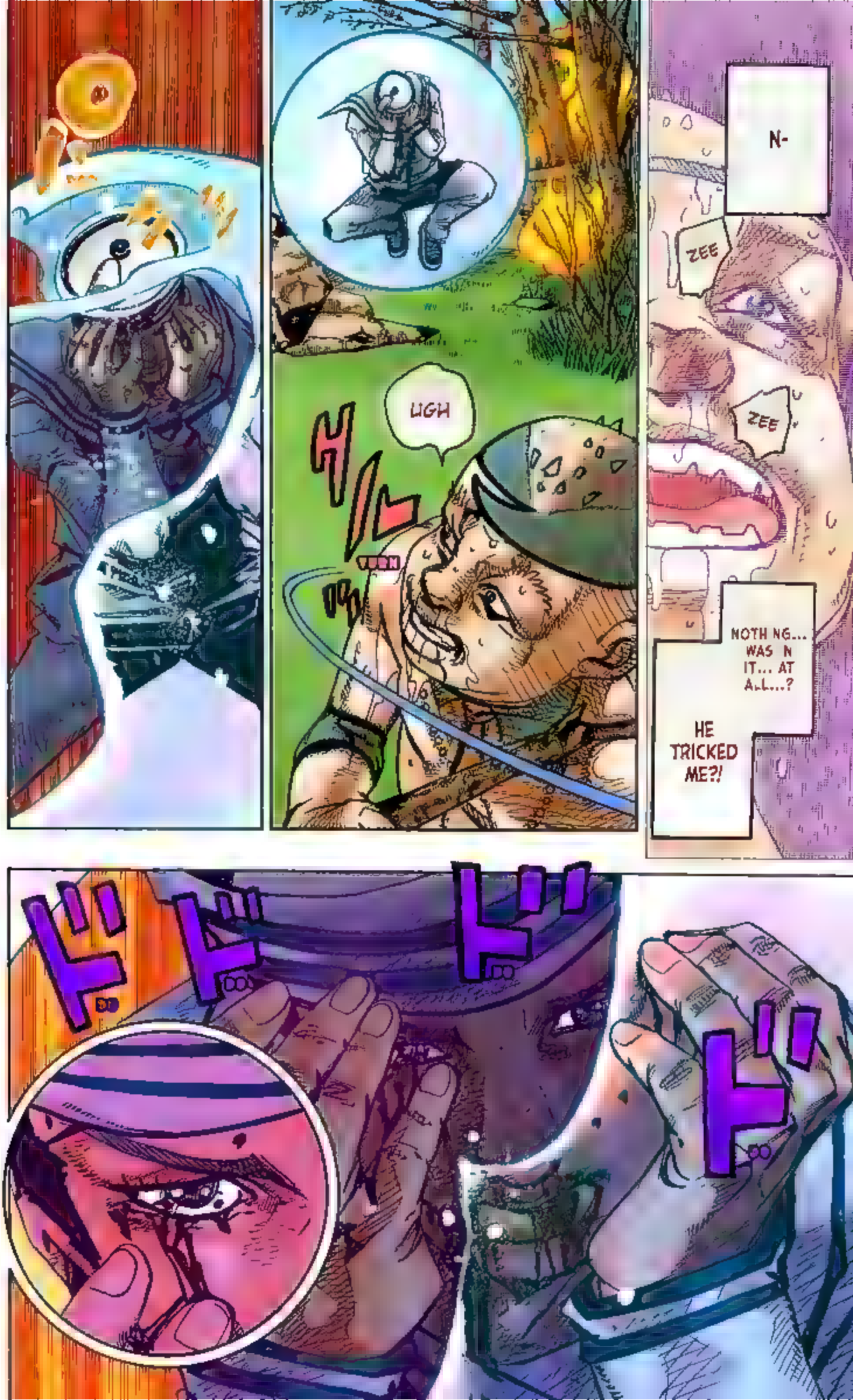
A

A

CANCEL THE EFFECT!

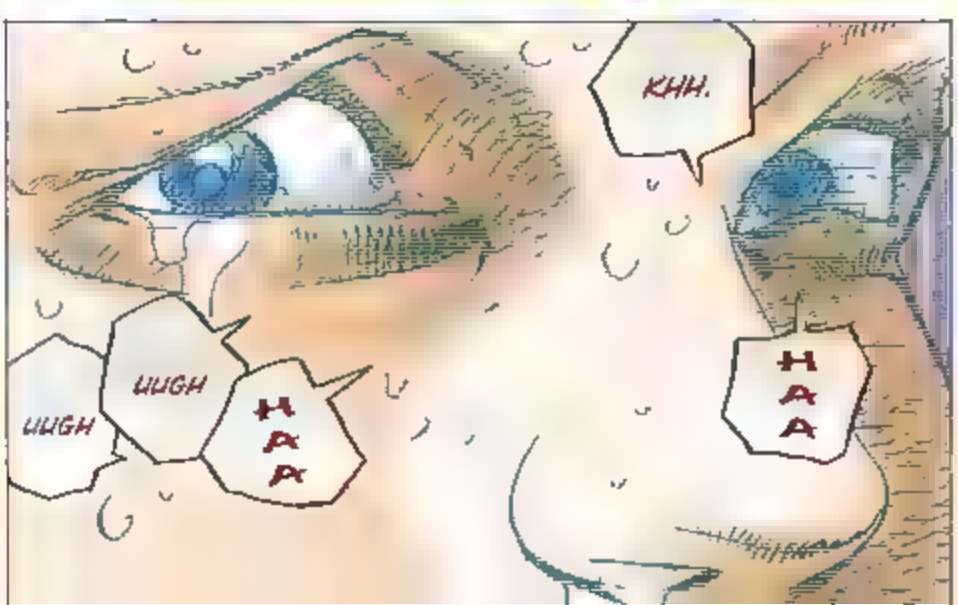
FUH


POP
SHUUH
BANG
UH...
...
SHUUH

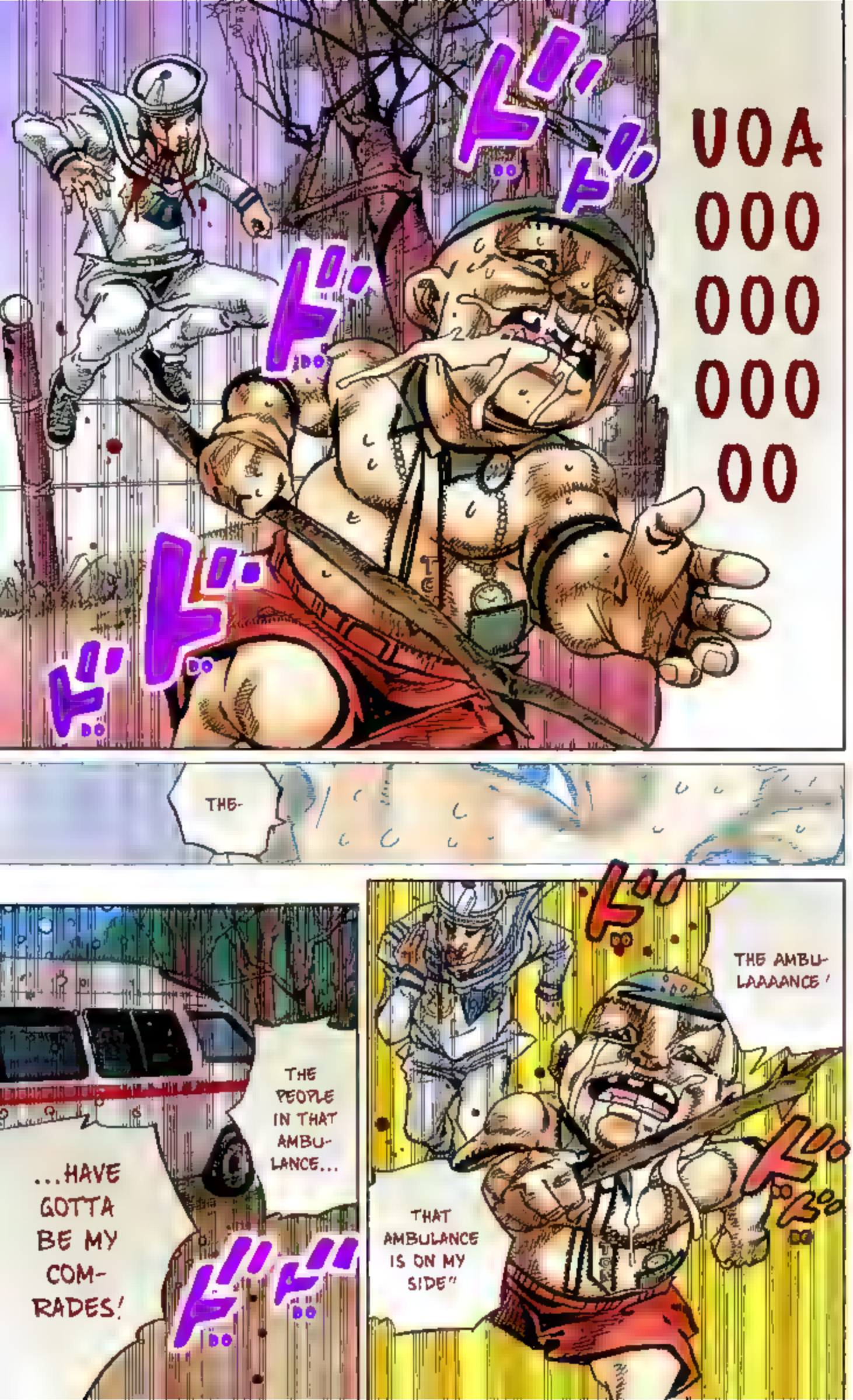

N-
ZEE
ZEE
UGH
NOTH NG... WAS N IT... AT A..L...?
HE TRICKED ME?!

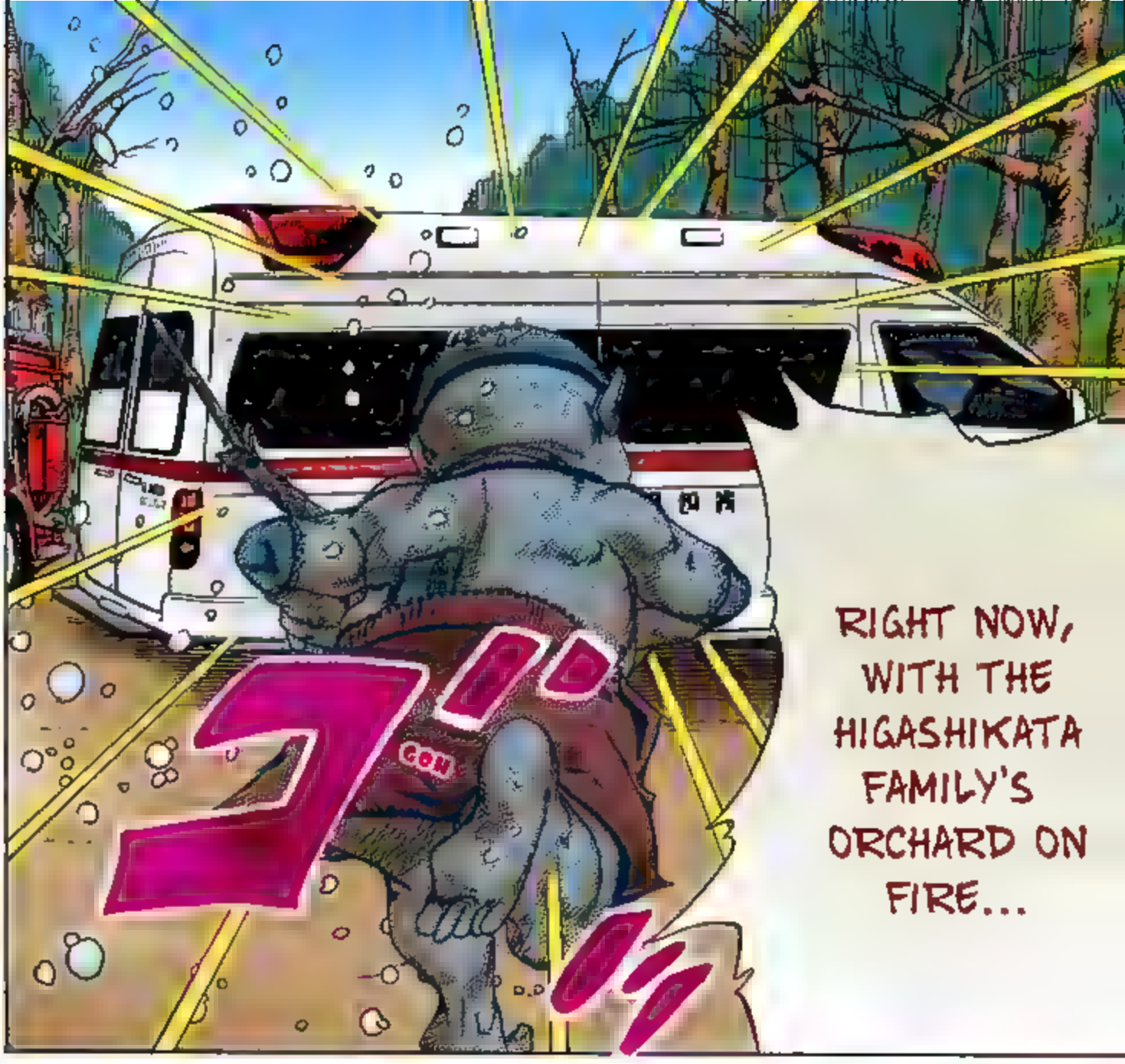
UUUGH
HAAA
HAAA
HAA
TH-THIS AIN'T GOOD...
WHY'D I HAVE TO GO AND CANCEL OZONE BABY...?
ドゴ
ドゴ
ドゴ

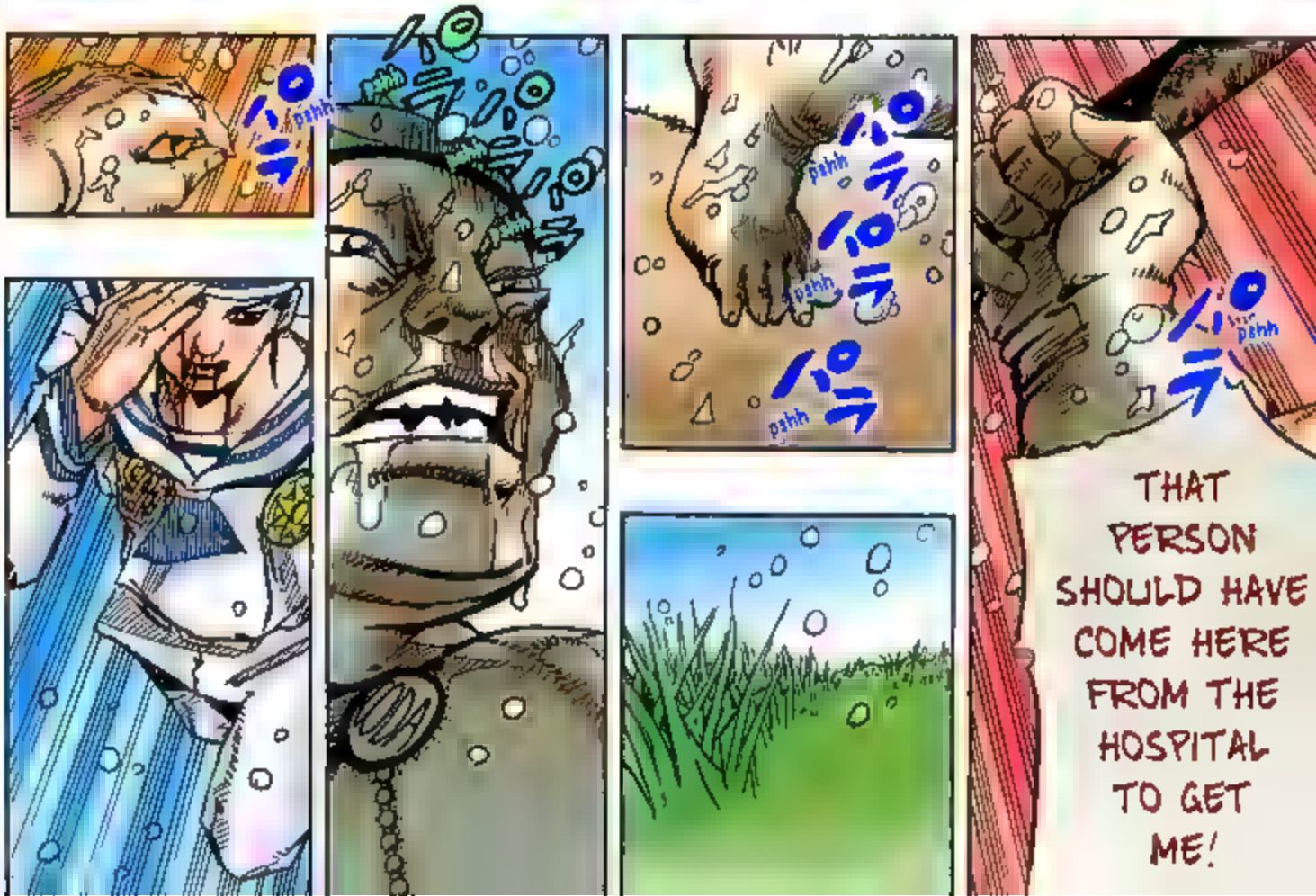
GLANCE

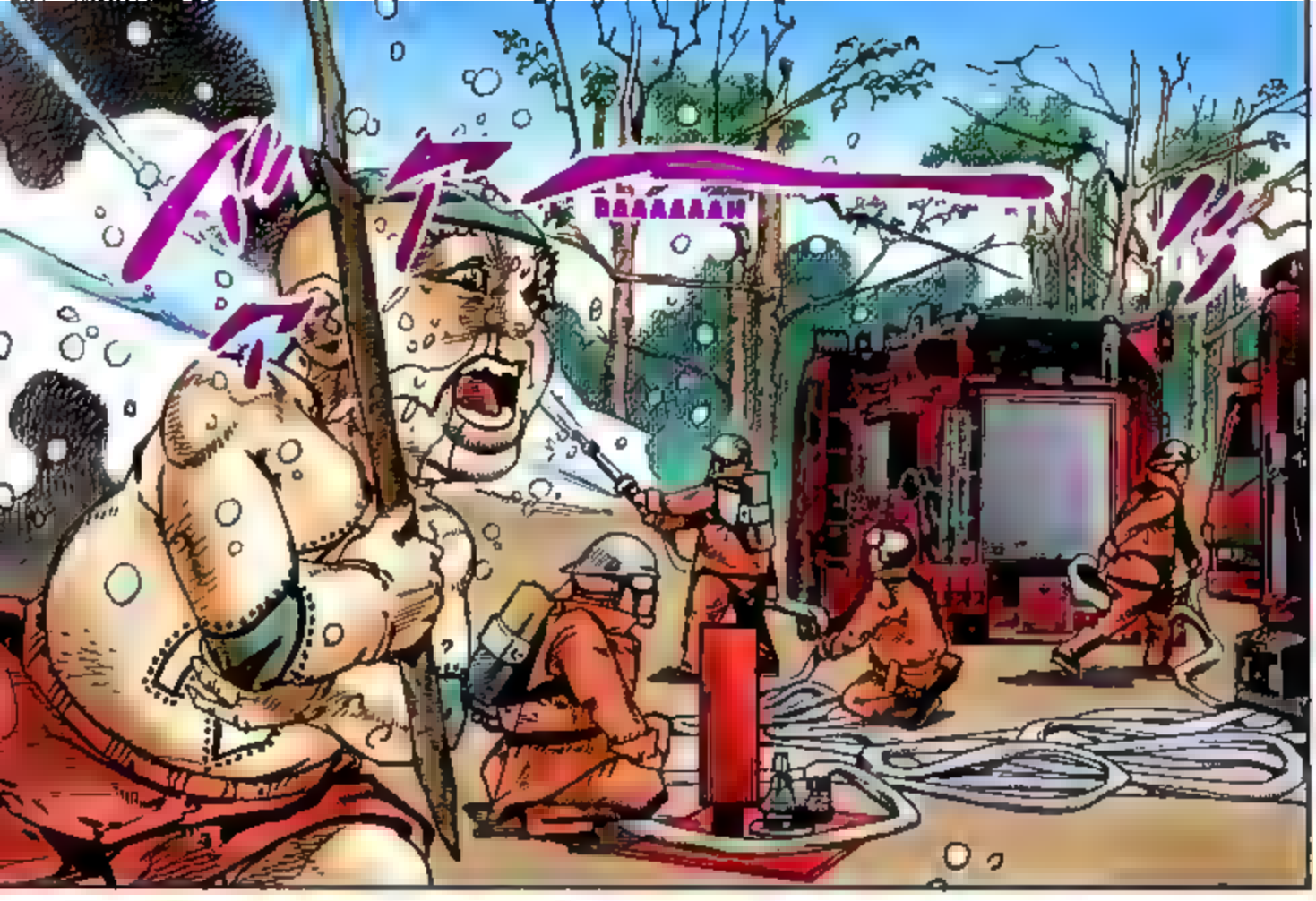

KHH.
UUGH
UUGH
HAA
HAA

ドン
ヤ!

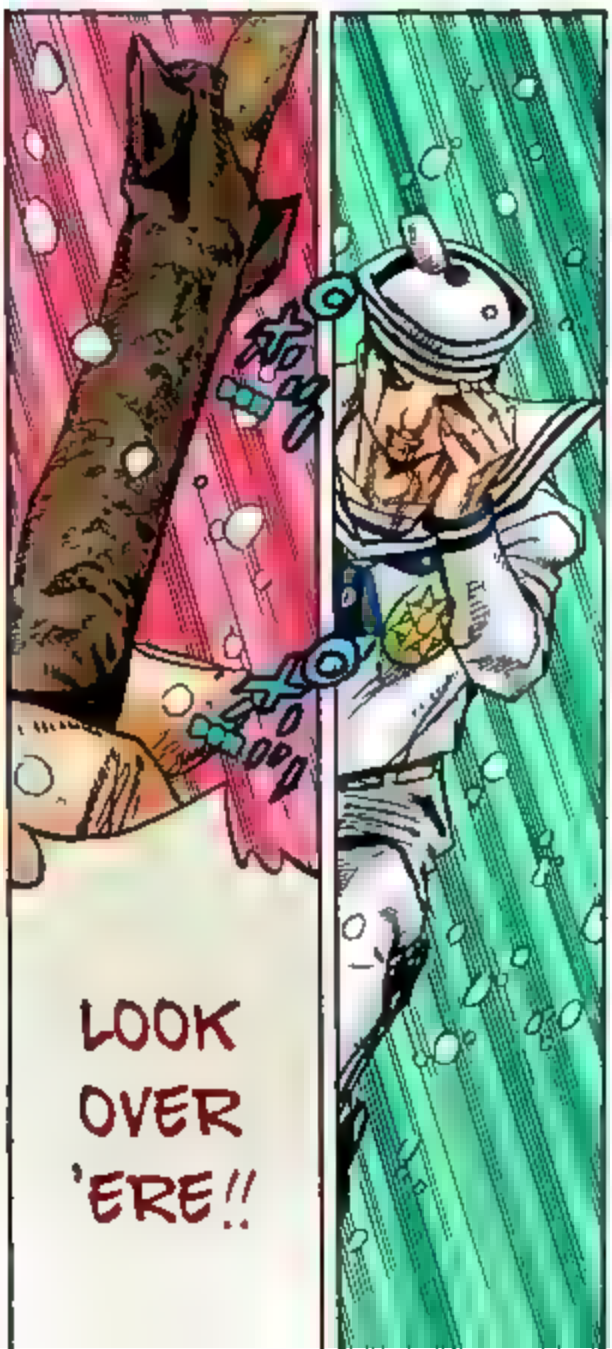

UOA
000
000
000
00
THE-
THE AMBU-LAAAANCE!
THAT AMBULANCE IS ON MY SIDE"
THE PEOPLE IN THAT AMBU-LANCE...
...HAVE GOTTA BE MY COM-RADES!

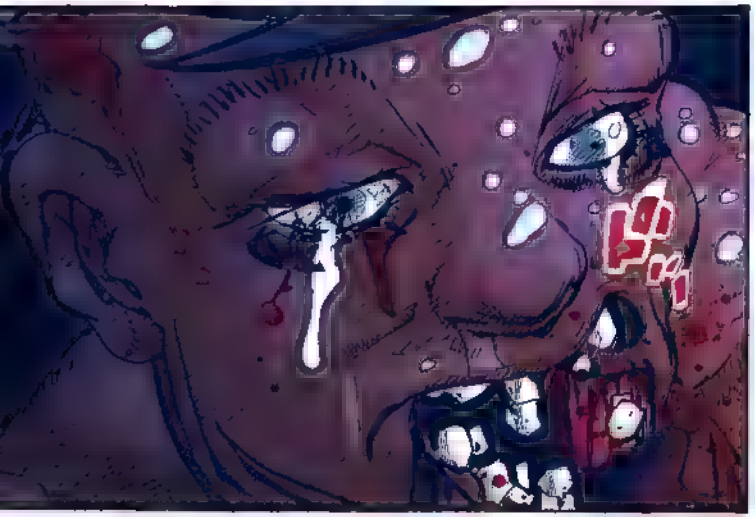

RIGHT NOW, WITH THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY'S ORCHARD ON FIRE...

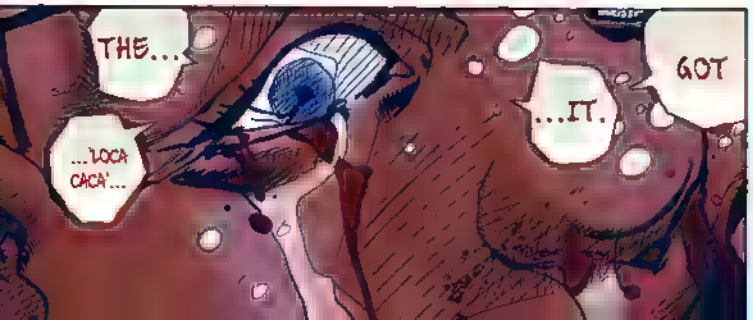

pshh
pshh
pshh
pshh
pshh
THAT PERSON SHOULD HAVE COME HERE FROM THE HOSPITAL TO GET ME!


BRAAAAAH

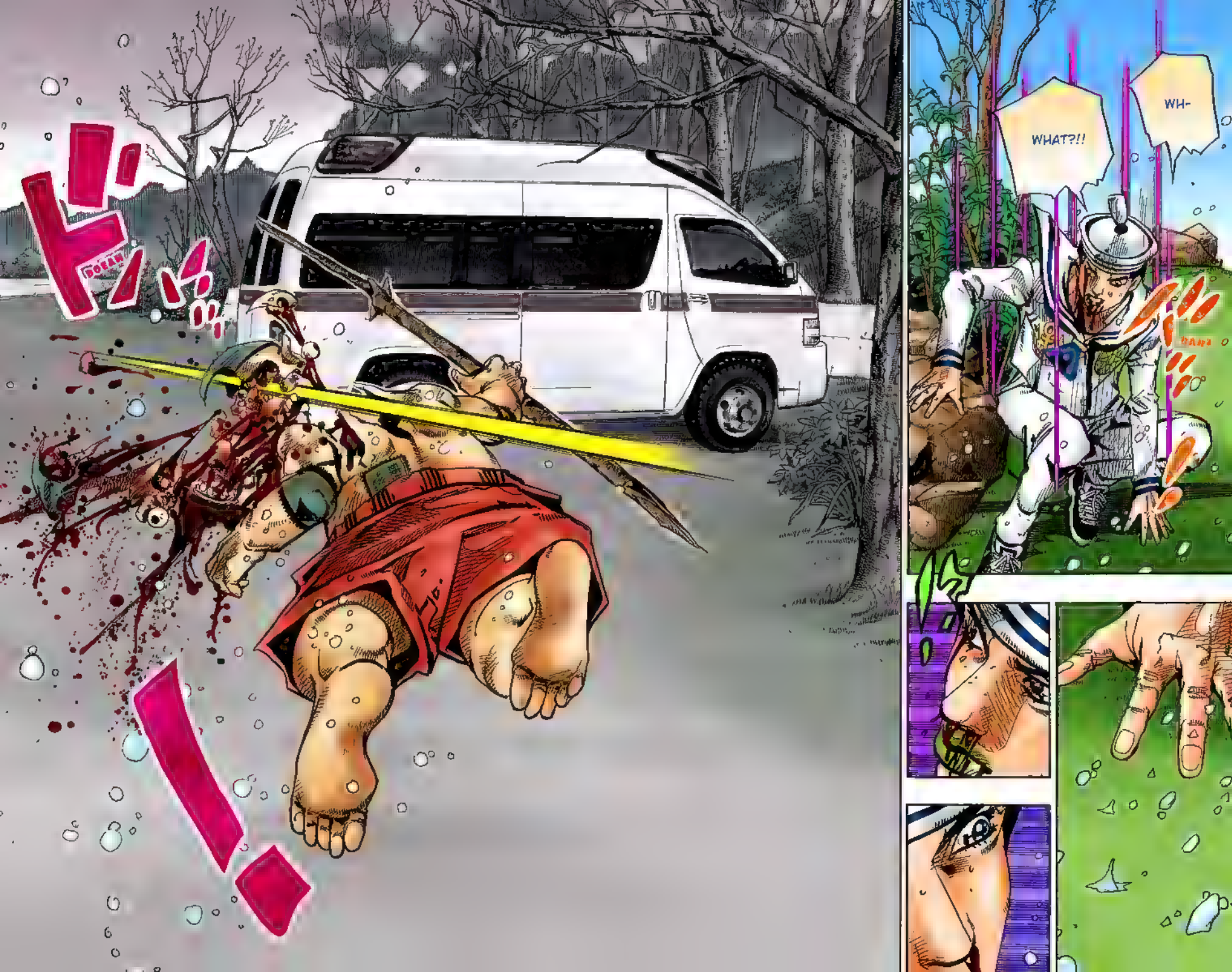
LOOK, I GOT IT! I GOT THE LOCACACA BRAAAA-AANCH!!!

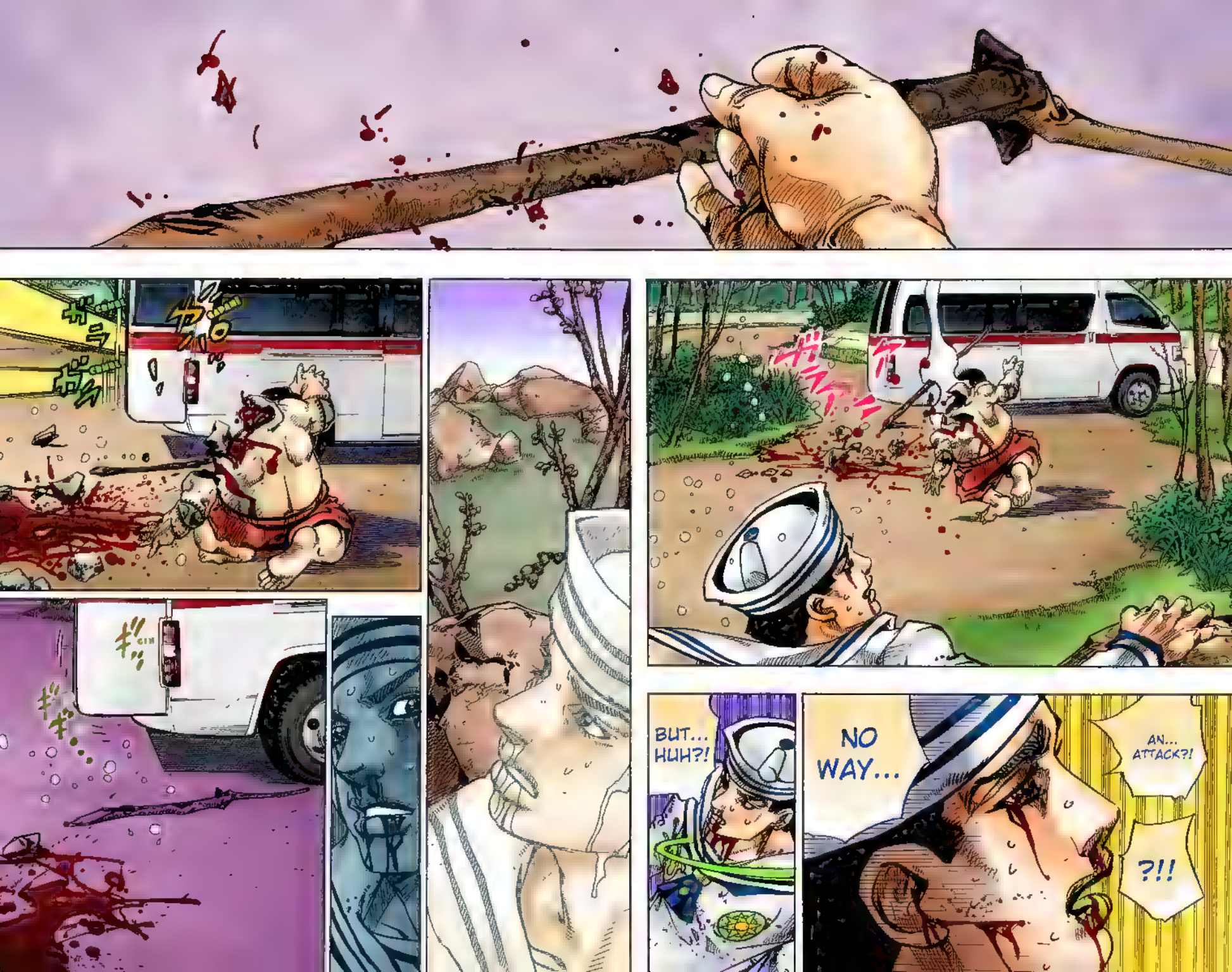

LOOK OVER 'ERE!!

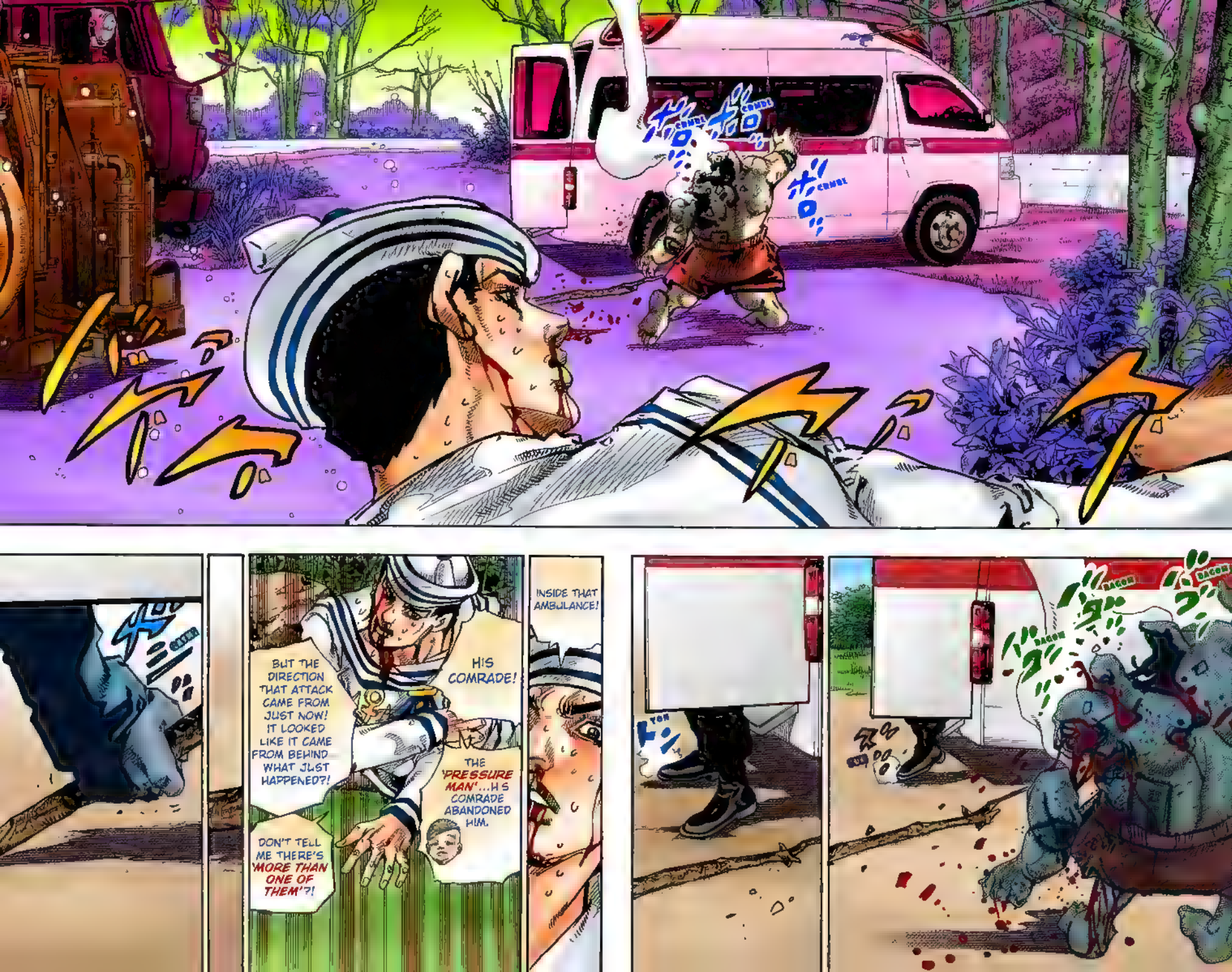


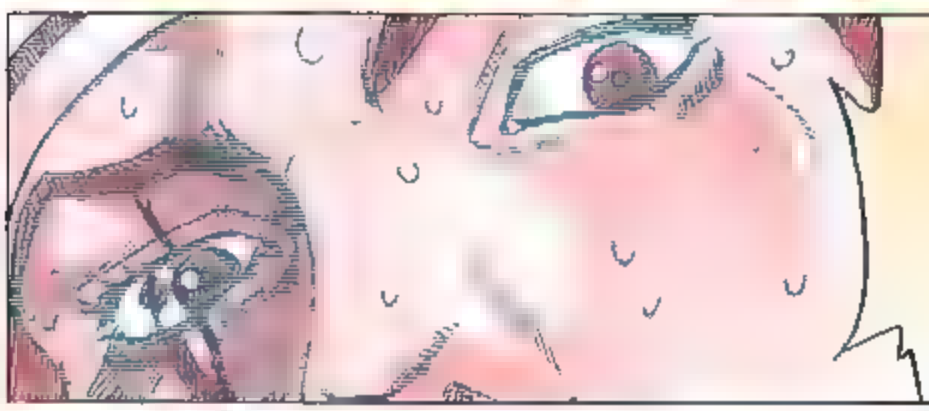

THE...
...LOCA CACA'...
...IT.
GOT

SHUPAAAN
GOT...
I GO-

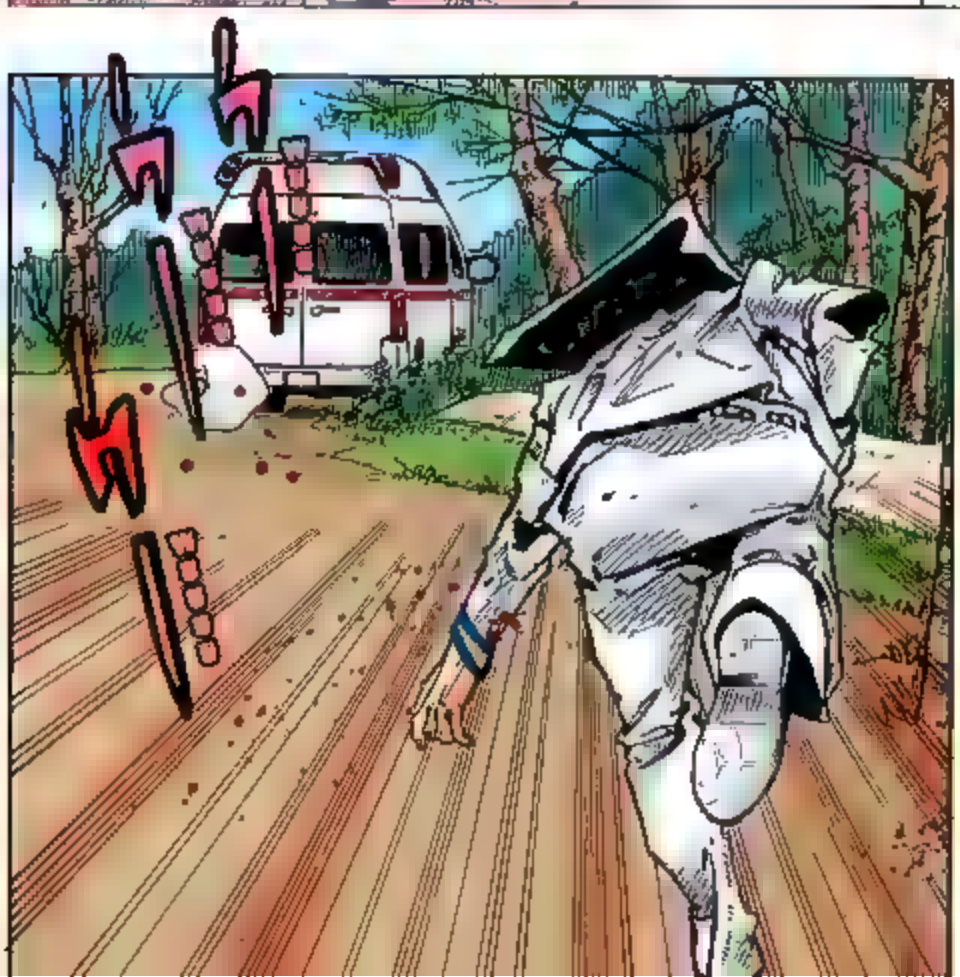

ドバッ!!
WHAT?!!
WH-

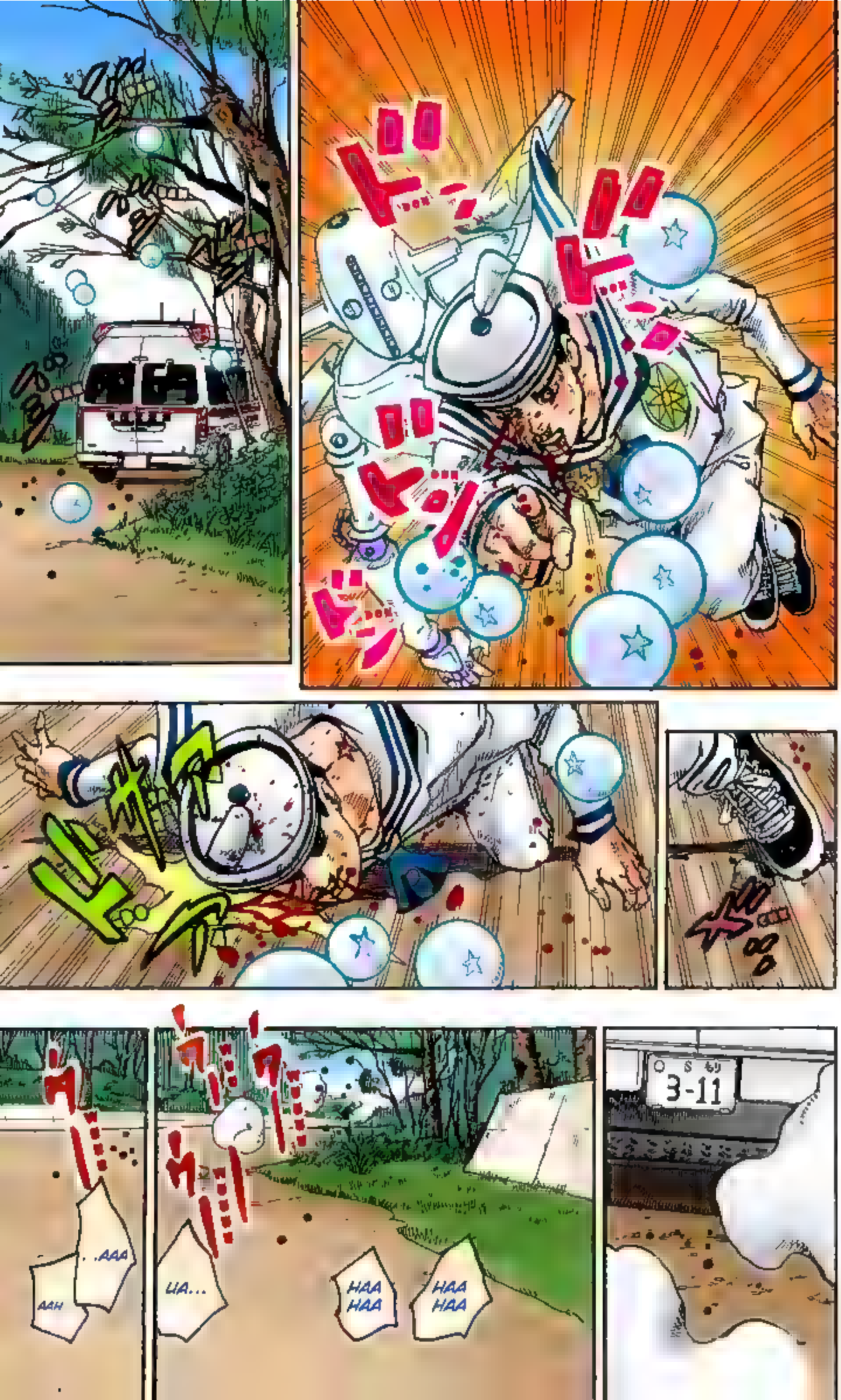

BUT... HUH?!
NO WAY...
AN... ATTACK?!
?!!

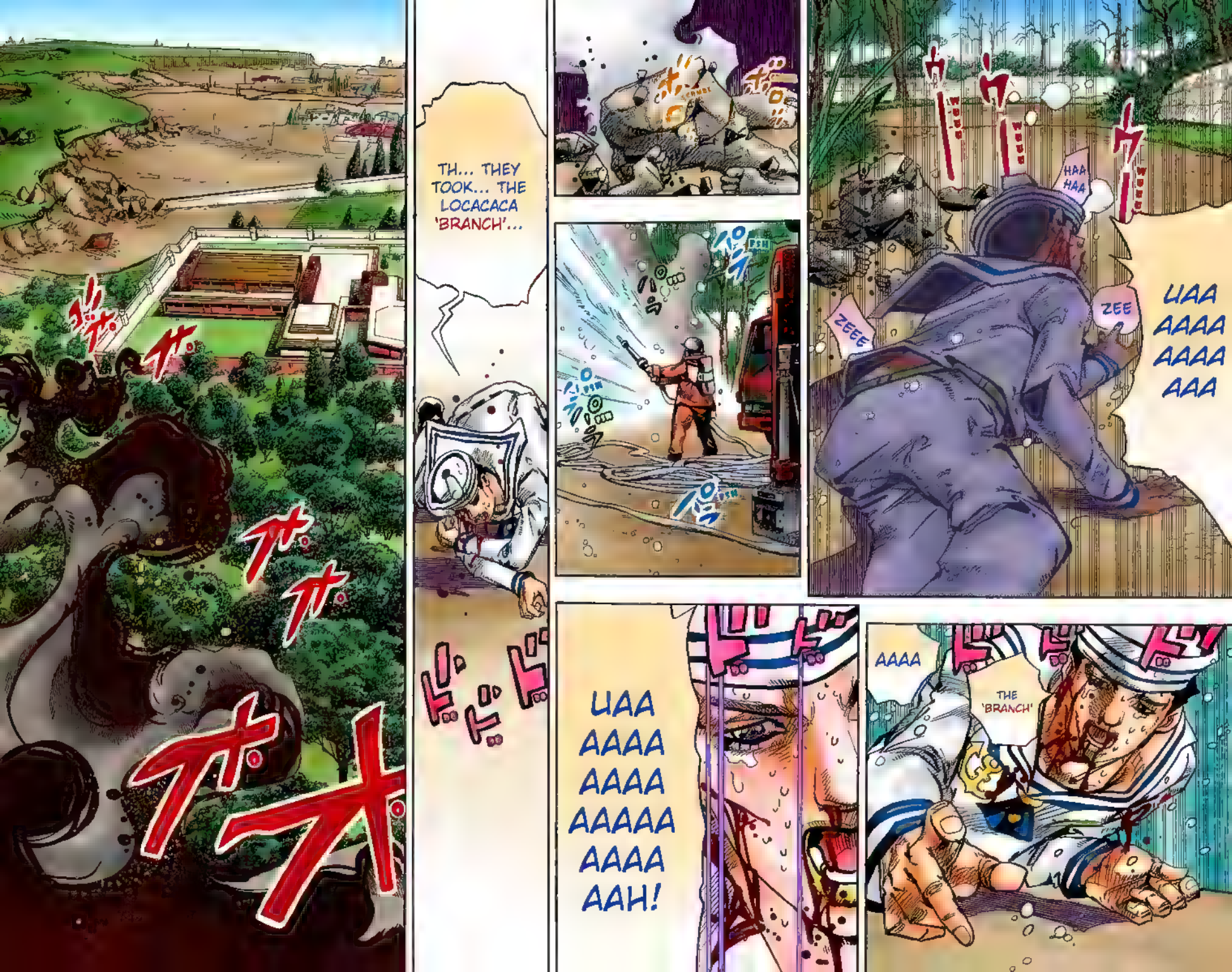

COMBI
COMBI
COMBI
GUH
BUT THE DIRECTION THAT ATTACK CAME FROM JUST NOW! IT LOOKED LIKE IT CAME FROM BEHIND WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
HIS COMRADE!
THE 'PRESSURE MAN'...HIS COMRADE ABANDONED HIM.
DON'T TELL ME THERE'S 'MORE THAN ONE OF THEM'?!
INSIDE THAT AMBULANCE!
TON
BACON
BACON
BACON



THEIR ONLY GOAL WAS THE 'BRANCH'!




AAH
. .AAA
UA...
HAA HAA
HAA HAA
3-11


TH... THEY TOOK... THE LOCACACA 'BRANCH'...
HAA HAA
ZEE
ZEEE
UAA AAAA AAAA AAA
UAA AAAA AAAA AAAAA AAAA AAH!
AAAA
THE 'BRANCH'

TSURUGI!

TSURUGI!

DON'T GO OVER THERE... THERE'S A FIRE!

STAY AWAY FROM THE FIRE IN THE ORCHARD!

HAA HAA

HAA HAA

ARE YOU OKAY TSURUGI ...?

ARE YOU... HURT AT ALL?

...

AND JOSHU, IS HE OKAY?

HOW ARE MY BIG SISTERS ?

THEY'RE OKAY FOR NOW JOSHU, HATO AND DAIYA ARE OVER THERE

YES.

UNCON-SCIOUS

TSURUG ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

AND DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT I THINK OUT ENTRE FAMILY WAS JUST ATTACKED BY THE ROCK HUMANS

HAA

THAT WAS AN ATTACK DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHO IT WAS

HAA

HAA

THE MOMENT REALIZED IT BLOOD WAS ALREADY COMING OUT OF MY EYES EARS AND NOSE .

I'M SURE THE TARGET OF THE ATTACK... WAS THE 'LOCACACA'. THAT 'BRANCH' WAS SOMEWHERE IN MY ORCHARD! AND THEY WENT AND LIT IT ON FIRE...

HAA HAA HAA HAA

WHERE'S JOB N?

TSURUG

WASN'T YOUR DADDY WITH YOU?

GEHO GEHO

IWASUKE ...

GEHO

TOLD YOU BEFORE, RIGHT ? THERE S NOTH NG FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT

WHEN THAT TIME COMES 'LL HELP YOU THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO WORRY

. . .

ANYHOW, I'M GO NG TO GO LOOK FOR JOB N.

WHERE COULD HE BE ? MAYBE THE GARAGE?

THE 'LOCACACA', GRANDPA

IF THAT FRUIT GOT STOLEN ...

THEN DOES THAT MEAN THE H GASH KATA FAMILY LOST? AND MY ILLNESS WON'T GET BETTER?

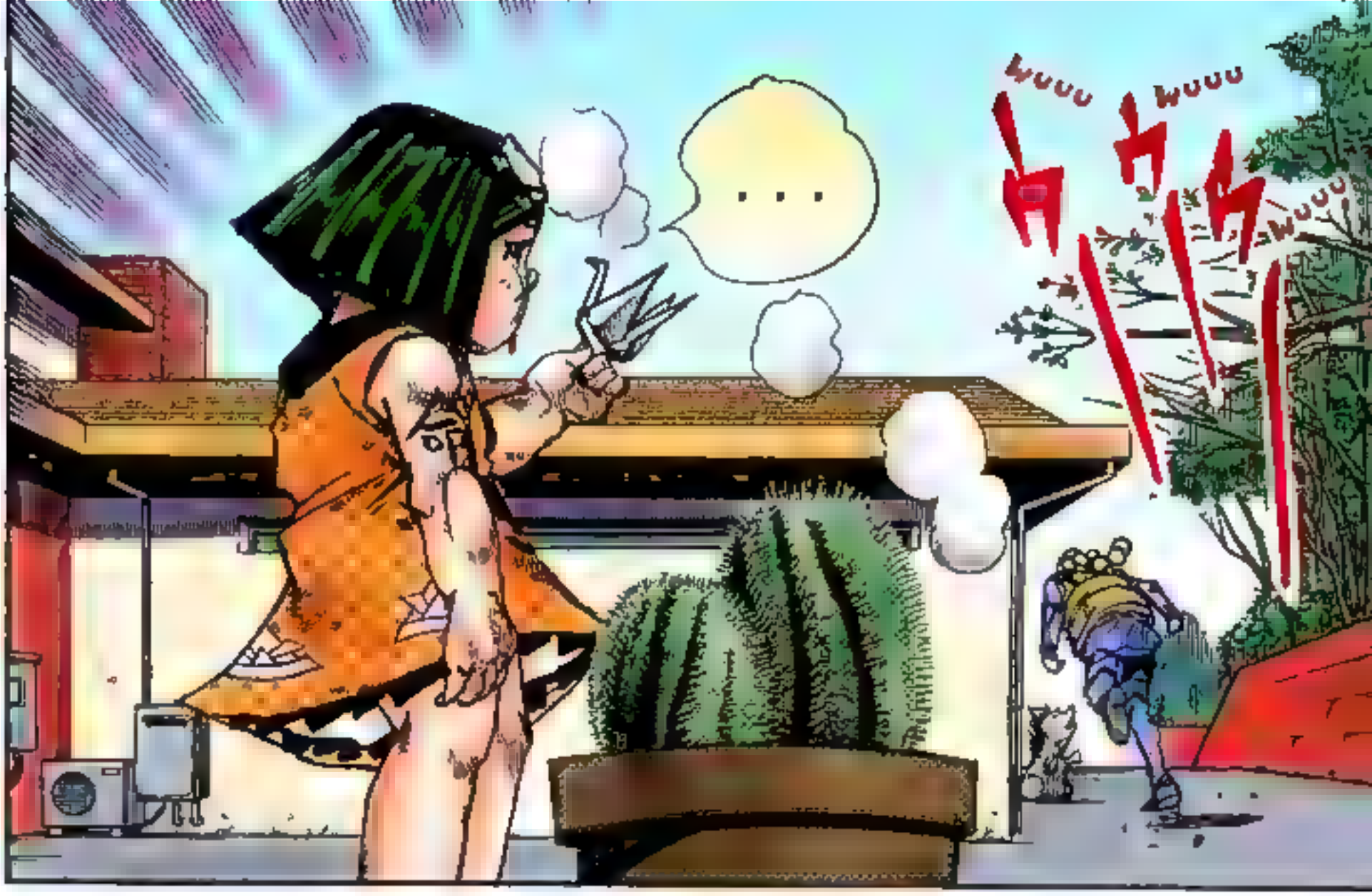
TSuRuG. YOU SHOULD GO BACK INSIDE THE HOUSE

AND MAKE SURE YOU STEER CLEAR OF THAT F RE

ORIGAM ?

IS TH S YOURS?

?!


. . .
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU

TSURUGI...
GRANDPA S RGHT. . DON'T GO NEAR THE ORCHARD...
WUUUU
WUUUU
WUUUU

"SEE PEOPLE AS HAVING THE SAME FACE"

IT HAS THE ABILITY TO MAKE THOSE THAT TOUCH YOUR 'ORIGAMI'...

THROUGH ITS ABILITY TO "MAKE THEM UNABLE TO DISCERN OBJECTS OR RECOGNIZE THEIR SHAPES"

ゴゴゴ

"PAPER MOON KING".

BECAUSE THE SECURITY CAMERAS HAVE REACTIVATED NOW

LET'S SAVOR THIS VICTORY...

ゴゴゴ

GO GO GO

YOU AND I DEFEATED EVERY-ONE!!

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WELL NOW... THAT 'HIGASHIKATA JOSUKE'.

...

'POOR TOM' TOO... JUST NOW HE WAS CORNERED AND RUNNING AWAY.

AFTER POOR TOM STOLE THE 'BRANCH', HE KEPT CHASING HIM TO THE VERY END.

IT LOOKS LIKE HE BELIEVED IT HE WAS CERTAINLY QUITE DESPERATE TO GET IT BACK.

CATCH

CATCH

...BUT THIS...

POOR TOM...!

THIS IS JUST AN ORDINARY PEAR 'BRANCH'!

THIS IS NOT THE 'LOCACACA BRANCH'...!!

HE ASSUMED TH S WAS THE ROKAKAKA ONE AND TOOK IT,

AND AT THAT POINT, HE'D ALREADY BLUN-DERED

KRAAAACK

THIS IS THE WRONG ONE!

WASHIN

AND MOST OF IT HAS ALREADY BURNED.

THE H GASH KATA FAMILY ORCHARD COVERS A CONS DERABLE AREA.

NO THAT'S NOT THE R.GHT WAY TO TH NK ABOUT THIS

WE GO TO

...CAME HERE WHEN WE SAW THE ORCHARD WAS ON FIRE.

BOTH POOR TOM AND US...

THE ONE WHO LIT THE FIRE IS SOMEWHERE ELSE.

SO THAT MEANS NE THER 'POOR TOM'

...NOR 'JOSUKE' WERE THE ONE WHO LIT THAT FIRE TARGETING THE ORCHARD.

GU GUGU

GO

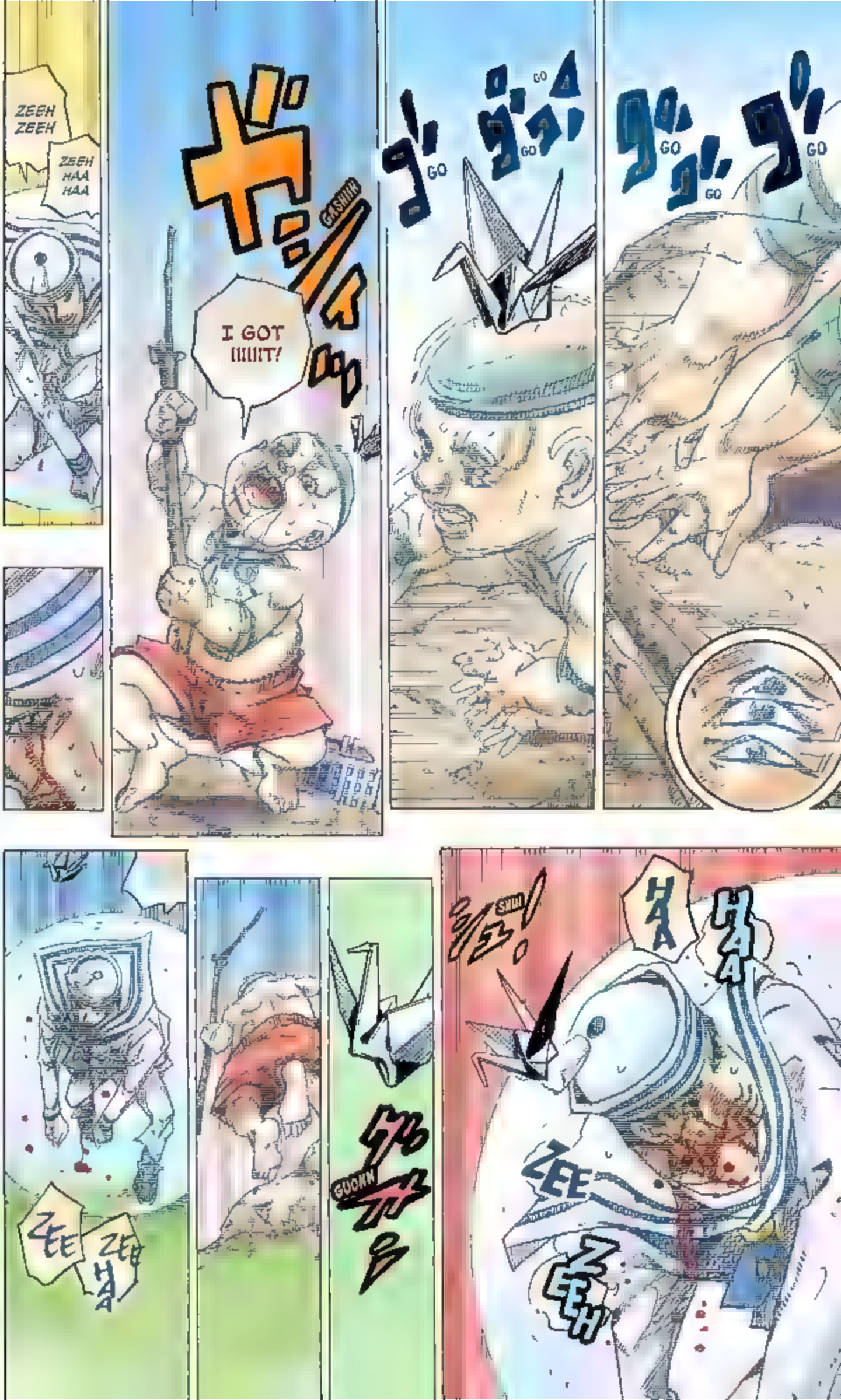
UGE GE

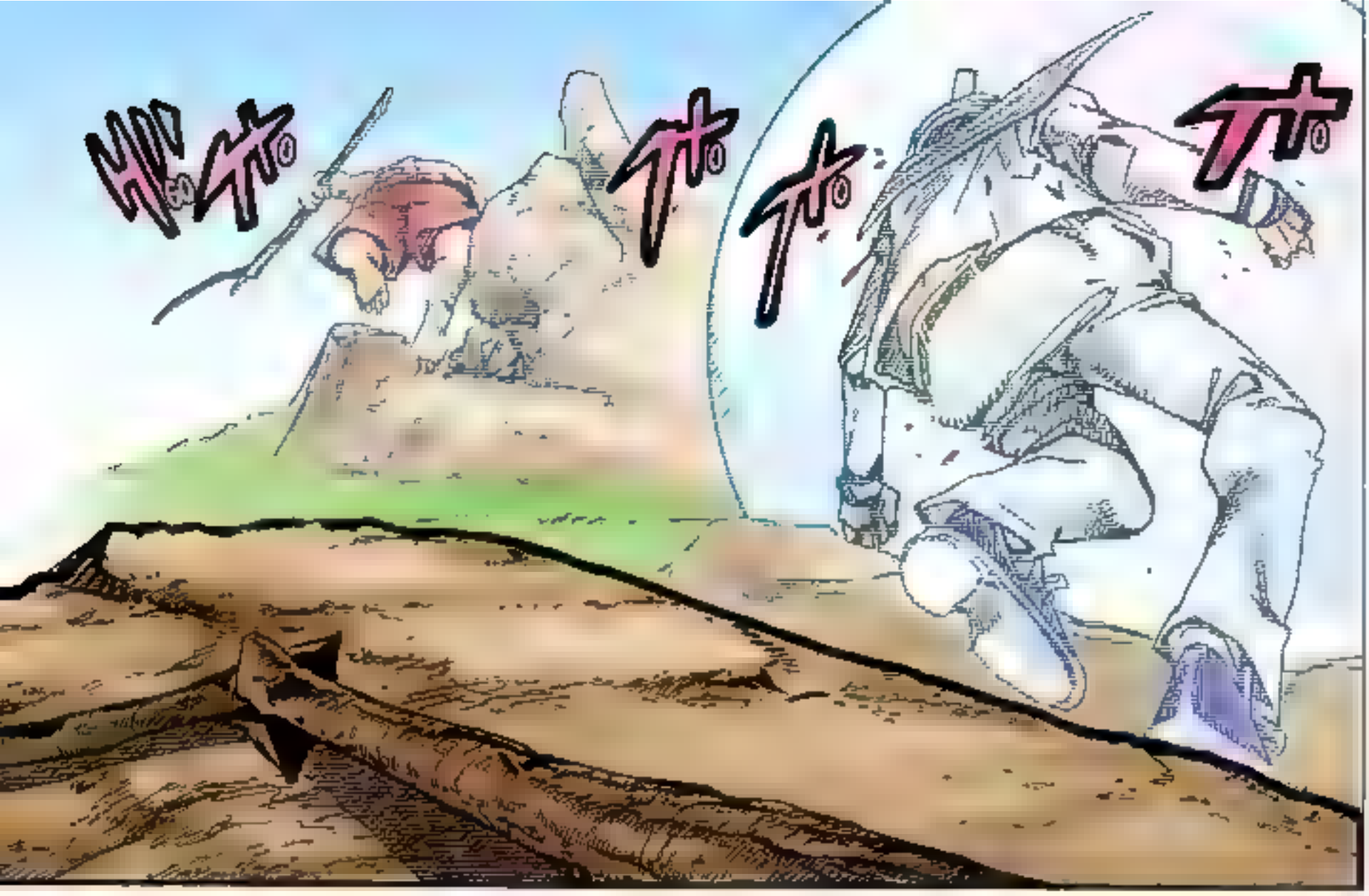
GEBOAA

...HAS THEIR HANDS ON THE ROKAKAKA BRANCH RIGHT NOW...

'WHOEVER' IT WAS WHO LIT THAT FIRE...

BUT WHO IS IT...?


ZEEH ZEEH
ZEEH HAA HAA
GASHH
I GOT IIIIIT!
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
ZEE ZEE HAA
GUOHH
SHH
HA
HA
ZEE
ZEEH


HUH
TU
TU
TU

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO

ARE US! AND WE'RE GOING TO CULTIVATE IT!

THE ONES WHO GOT THE 'ROKAKAKA BRANCH' IN THE END

DOOOOOOH

THERE ARE SPECIAL 'BUGS' PLANTED INSIDE THIS 'BRANCH'.

BY 'GRAFTING' IT ON TO THIS CACTUS PLANT, IT'LL GROW FASTER.

HE GOT DONE IN BY 'POOR TOM'S' PRESSURE,

BUT HE REALLY WAS SOME-THING... THESE ARE 'BUGS'.

POP'S 'PLANT APPRAISER' ...

LOOK AT THIS 'BRANCH'.

THE 'LOCACACA BRANCH' AND THIS FEROCACTUS HAVE ALREADY FUSED... BUT JUST TO BE SURE, LET'S APPLY SOME ADHESIVE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE RECORD FOR FLOWERS IS THE GIGANTEA, WHICH HAS BEEN KNOWN TO GROW 'FLOWERS' 14 DAYS AFTER BEING GRAFTED

WITH THIS METHOD, IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO LONG BEFORE WE CAN HARVEST THE 'FRUIT'.

I'M THINKING ABOUT THAT.

WILL THE FRUIT GROW? ...WH...WHERE DO WE PUT IT?

IF YOU TALK TO GRANDPA NORISUKE ABOUT THIS 'BRANCH'...

THEN GRANDPA NORISUKE WILL LOSE TO THE 'ENEMY' THAT'S BECAUSE HIS WAY OF THINKING IS WEAK

YOU MUST NOT TALK ABOUT THIS 'BRANCH'.

KEEP IT A SECRET FROM EVERYONE.

LISTEN CLOSELY TSURUGI.

GRANDPA IS YOUR ALLY... AND WE'RE ALL A FAMILY.

MY FATHER... NORISUKE, YOUR GRANDPA, CARES A WHOLE LOT ABOUT YOU.

THAT BEING SAID...

THIS 'BRANCH' IS A DIFFERENT CASE.

WE'RE THE ONES TASTING VICTORY...

THIS WORLD, INCLUDING MORIOH, IS CRAZY. AND THE ONE THING YOU CAN BE CERTAIN OF IN THIS MAD WORLD...

IS THE ONE THAT WINS IS THE ONE 'IN THE RIGHT'.

US TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW THE TRUTH.

RIGHT NOW... OUR ENEMIES, FAMILY, EVERYONE, THINKS THAT THE 'BRANCH' WAS LOST IN THIS ORCHARD FIRE.

AND JOSUKE IS IN DESPAIR OVER IT BEING TAKEN

ゴゴゴ

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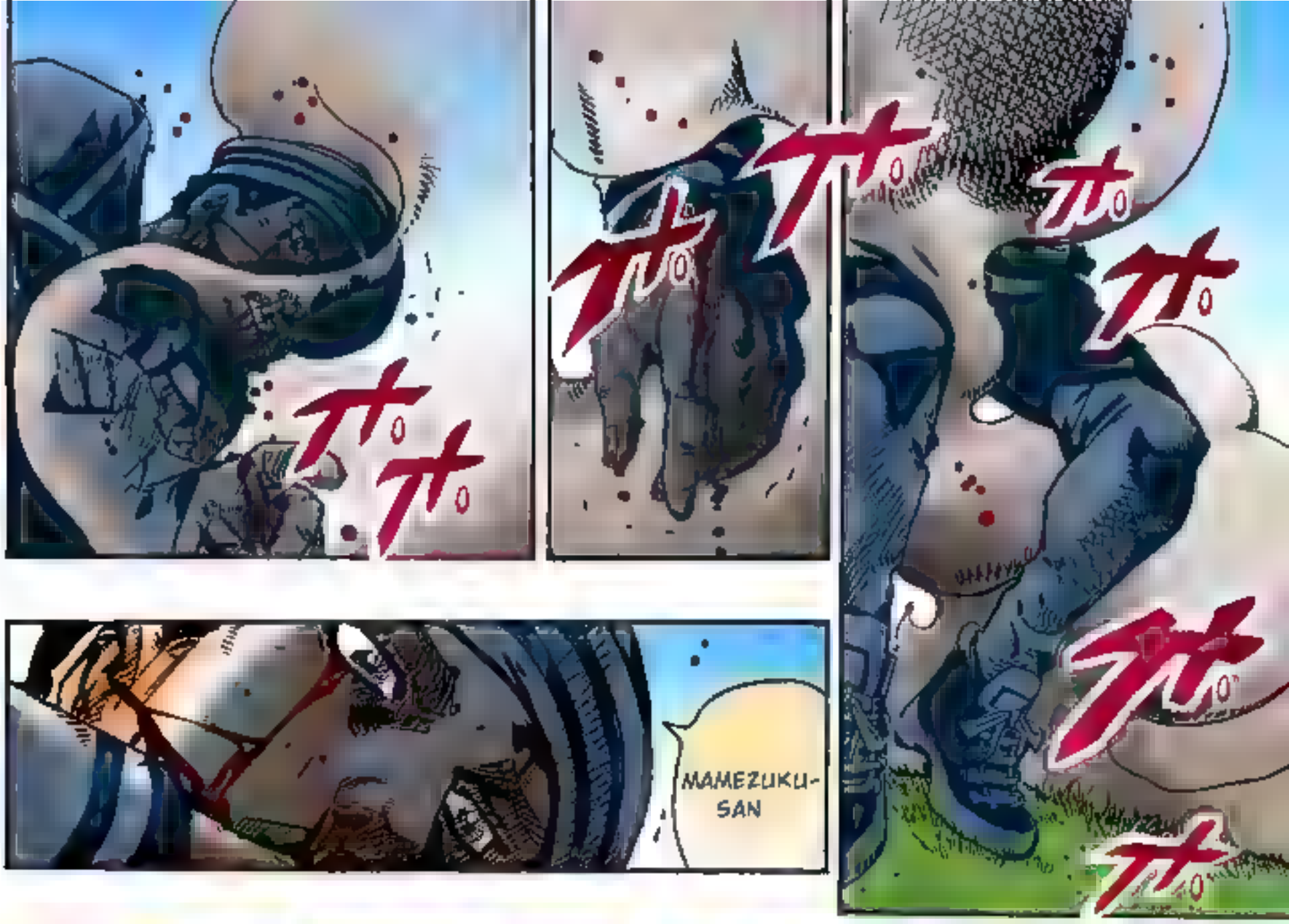
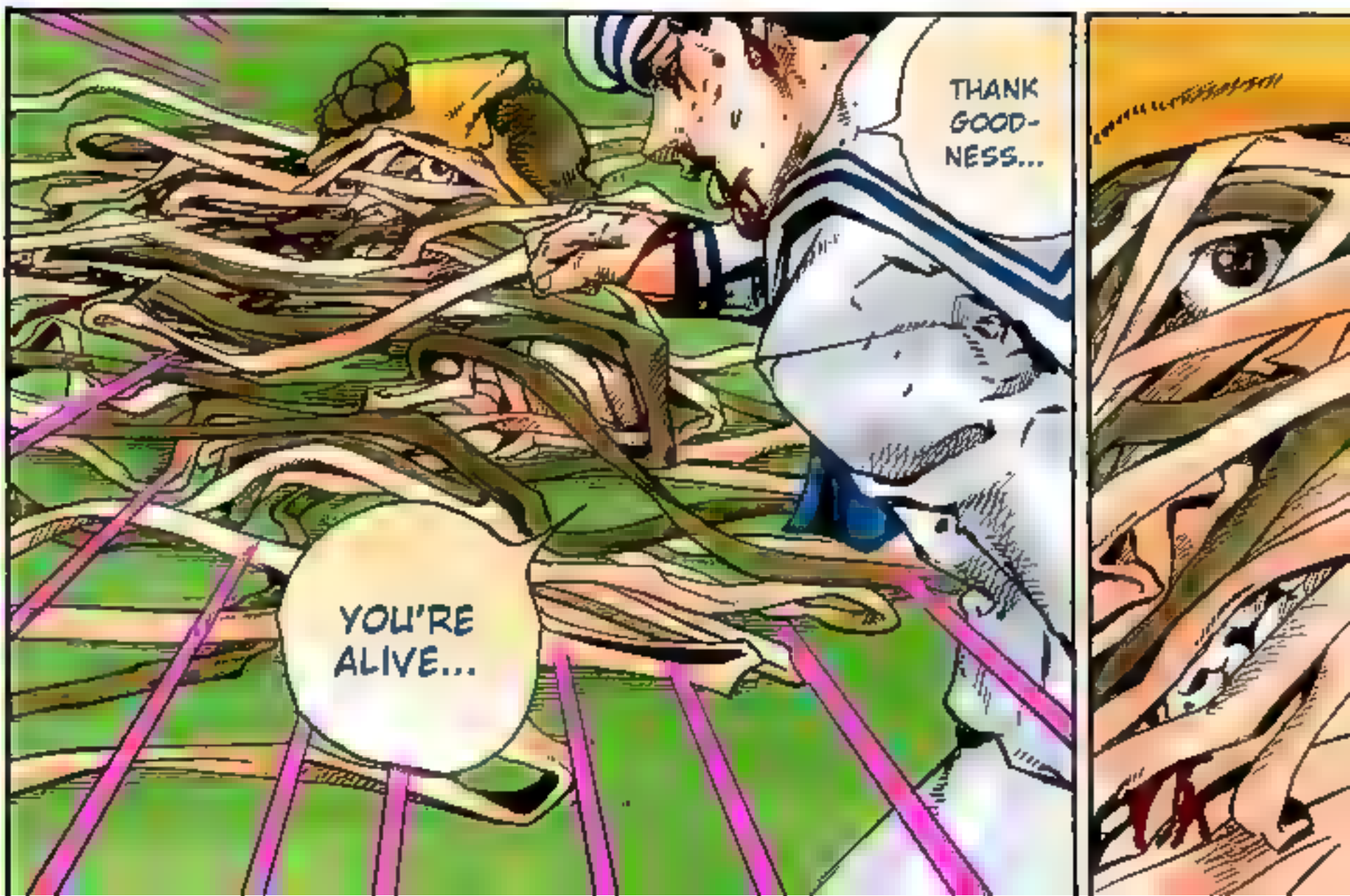
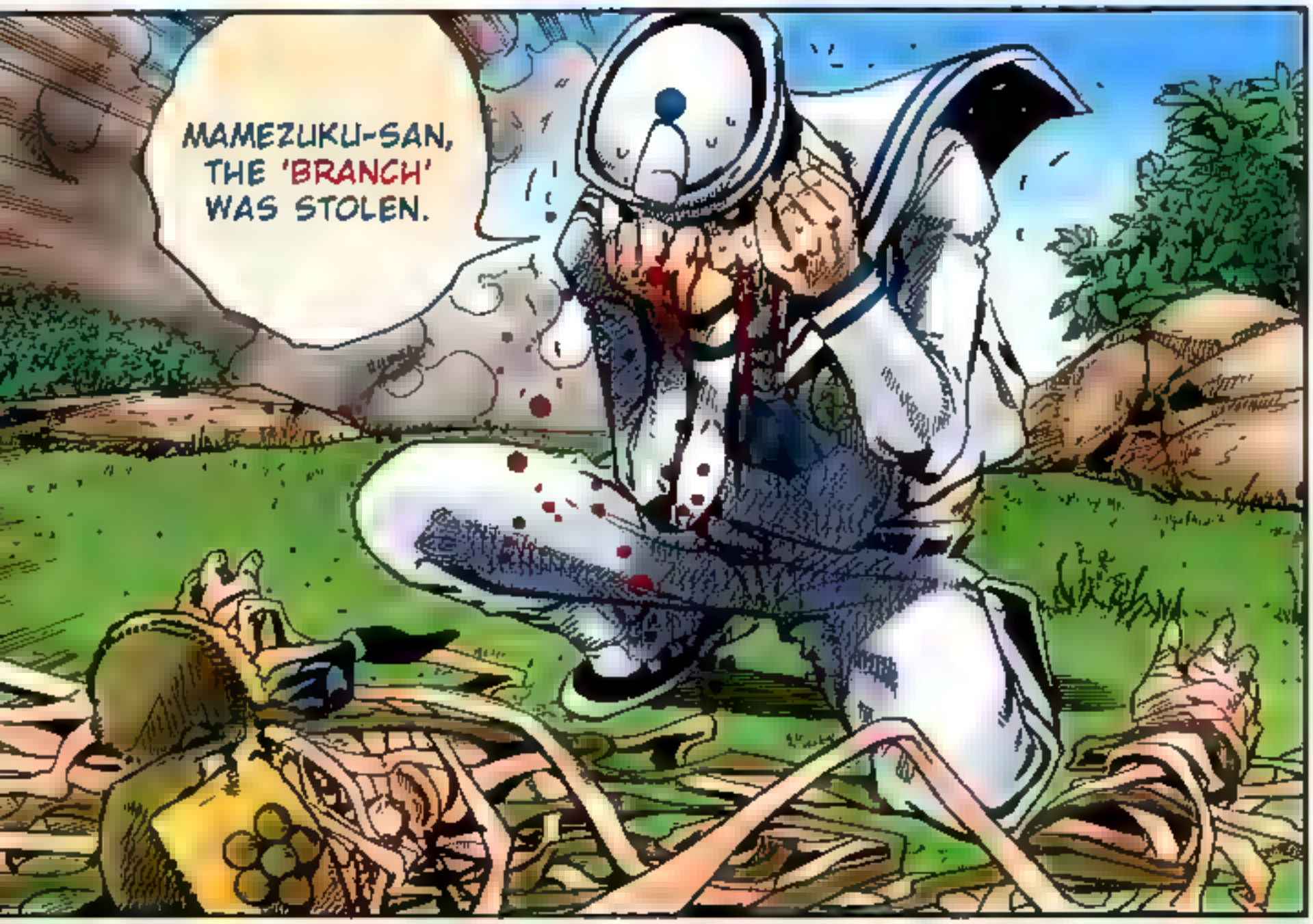
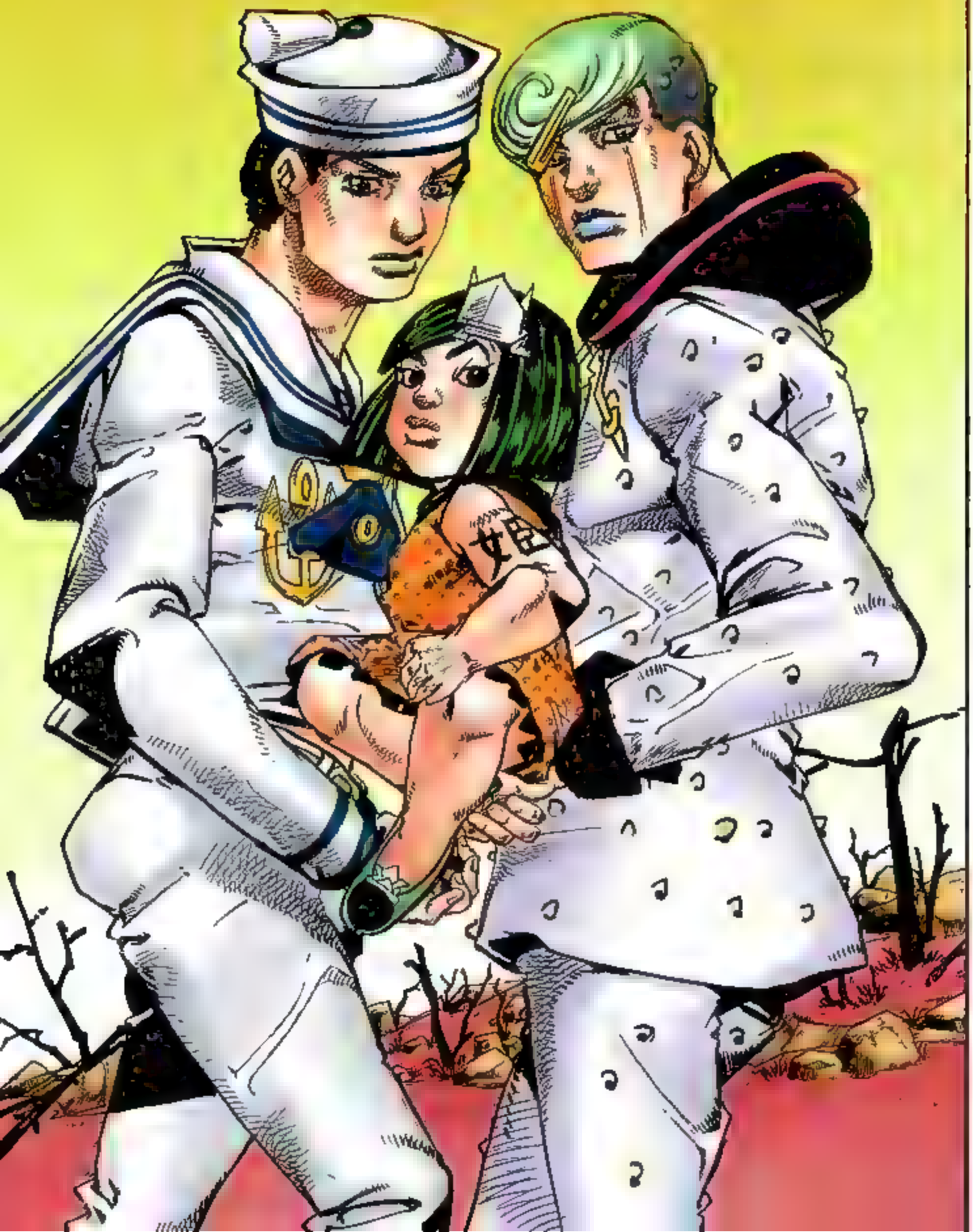

MAMEZUKU-SAN

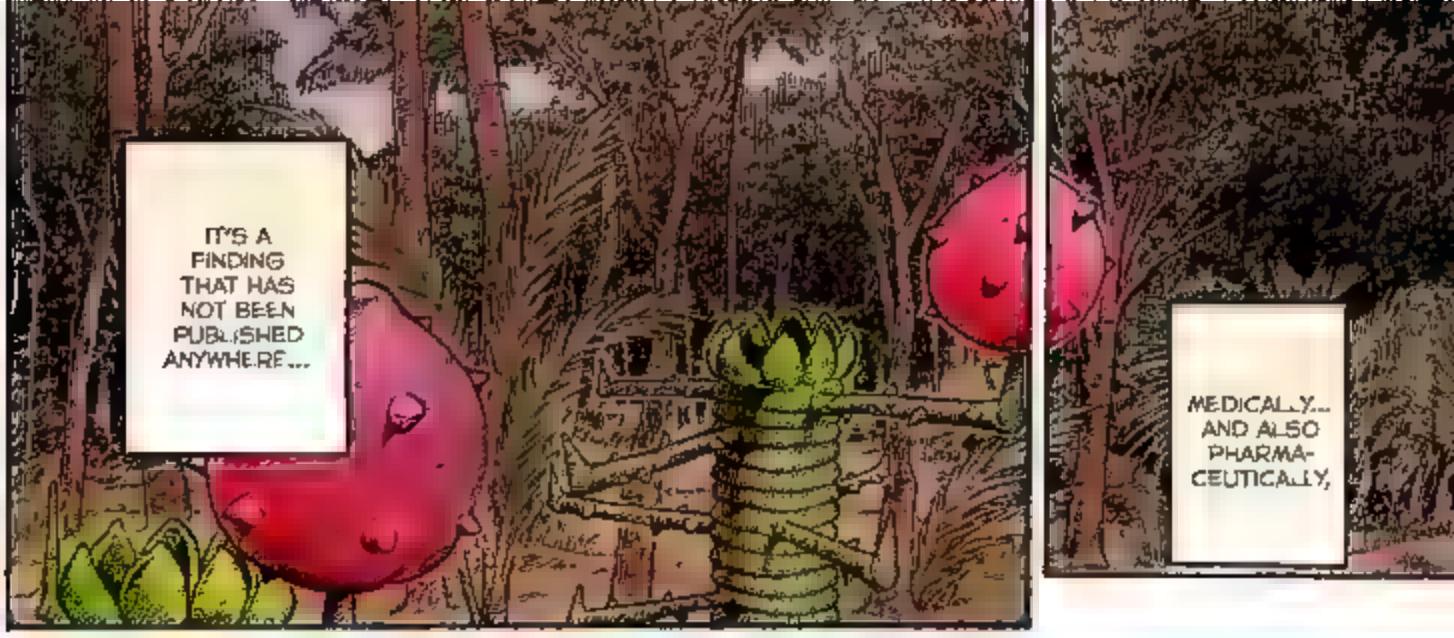

THANK GOOD-NESS...
YOU'RE ALIVE...

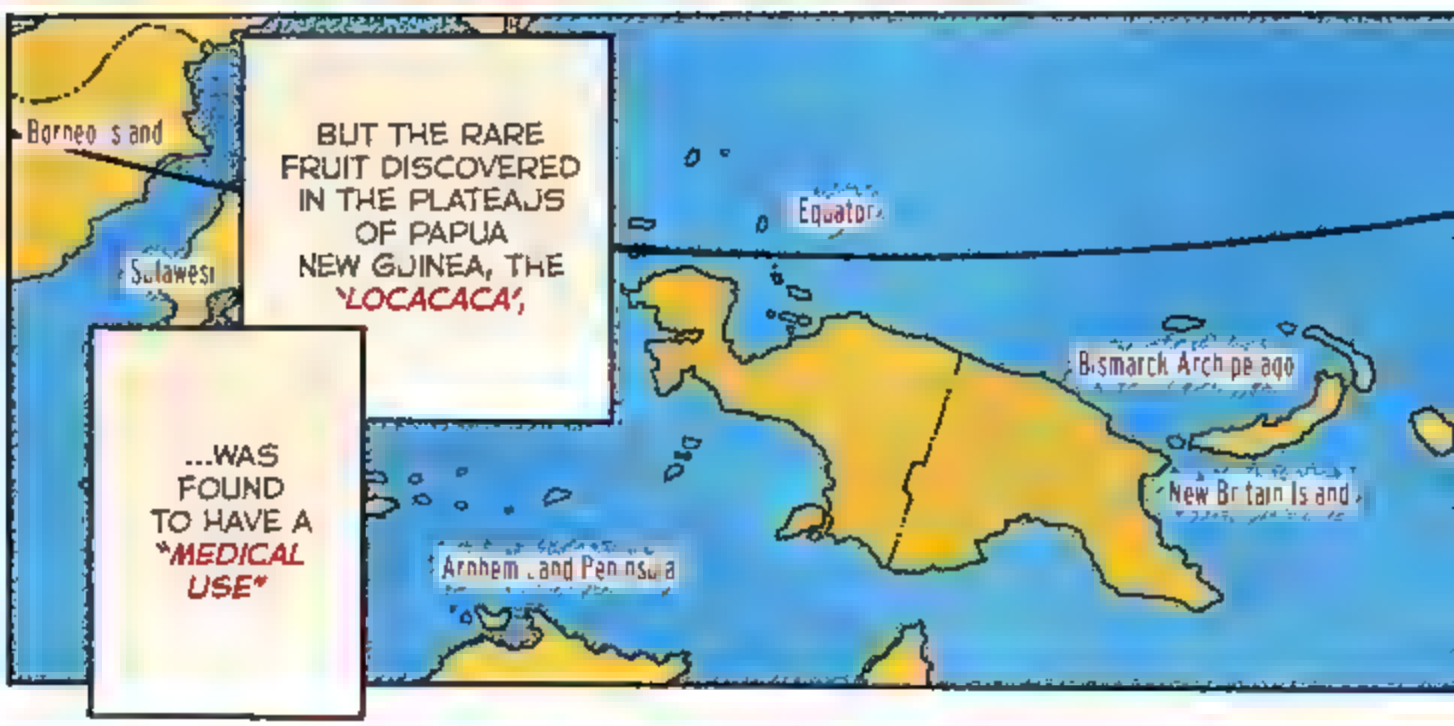

MAMEZUKU-SAN, THE 'BRANCH' WAS STOLEN.

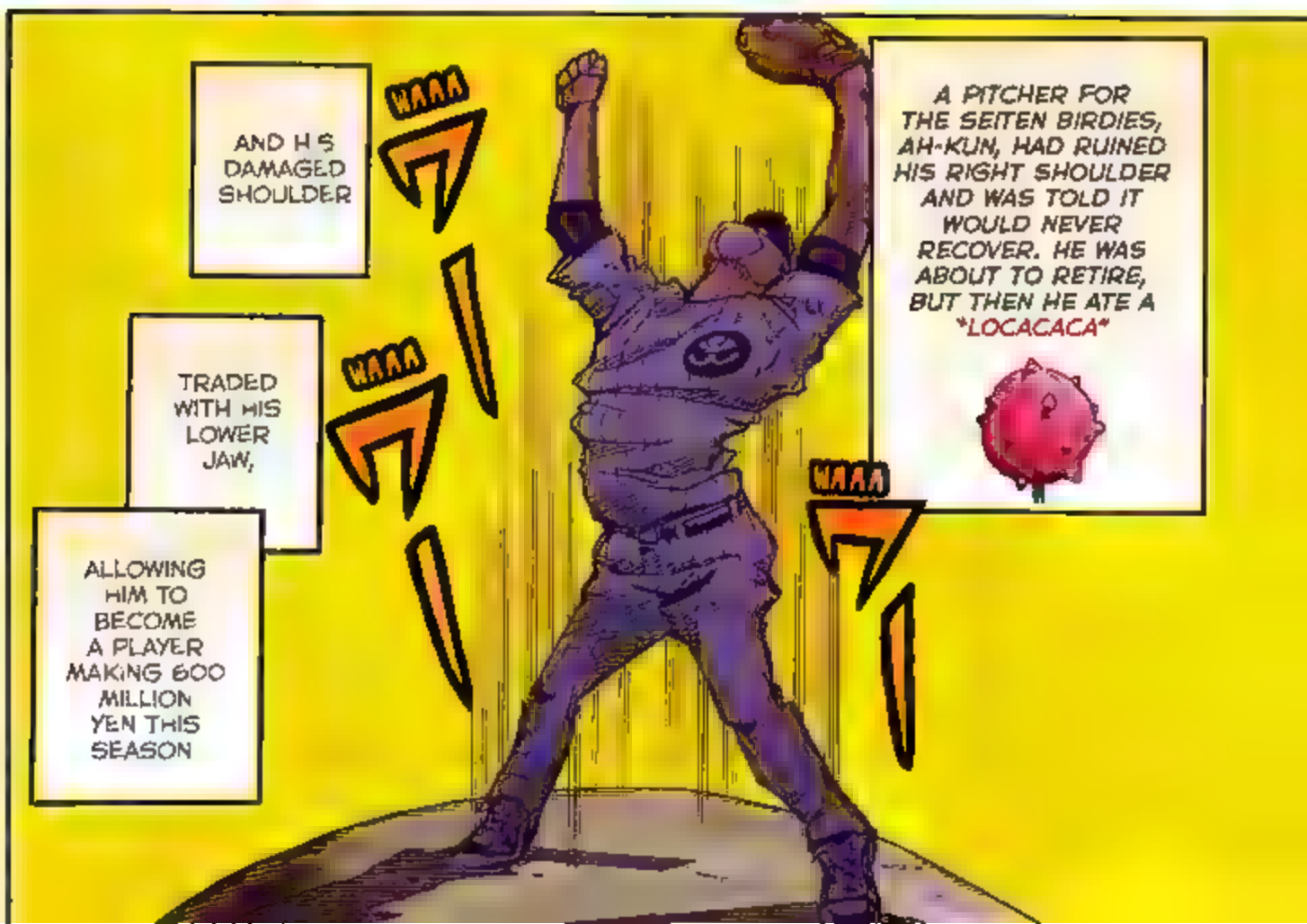
I COULDN'T GET IT BACK...

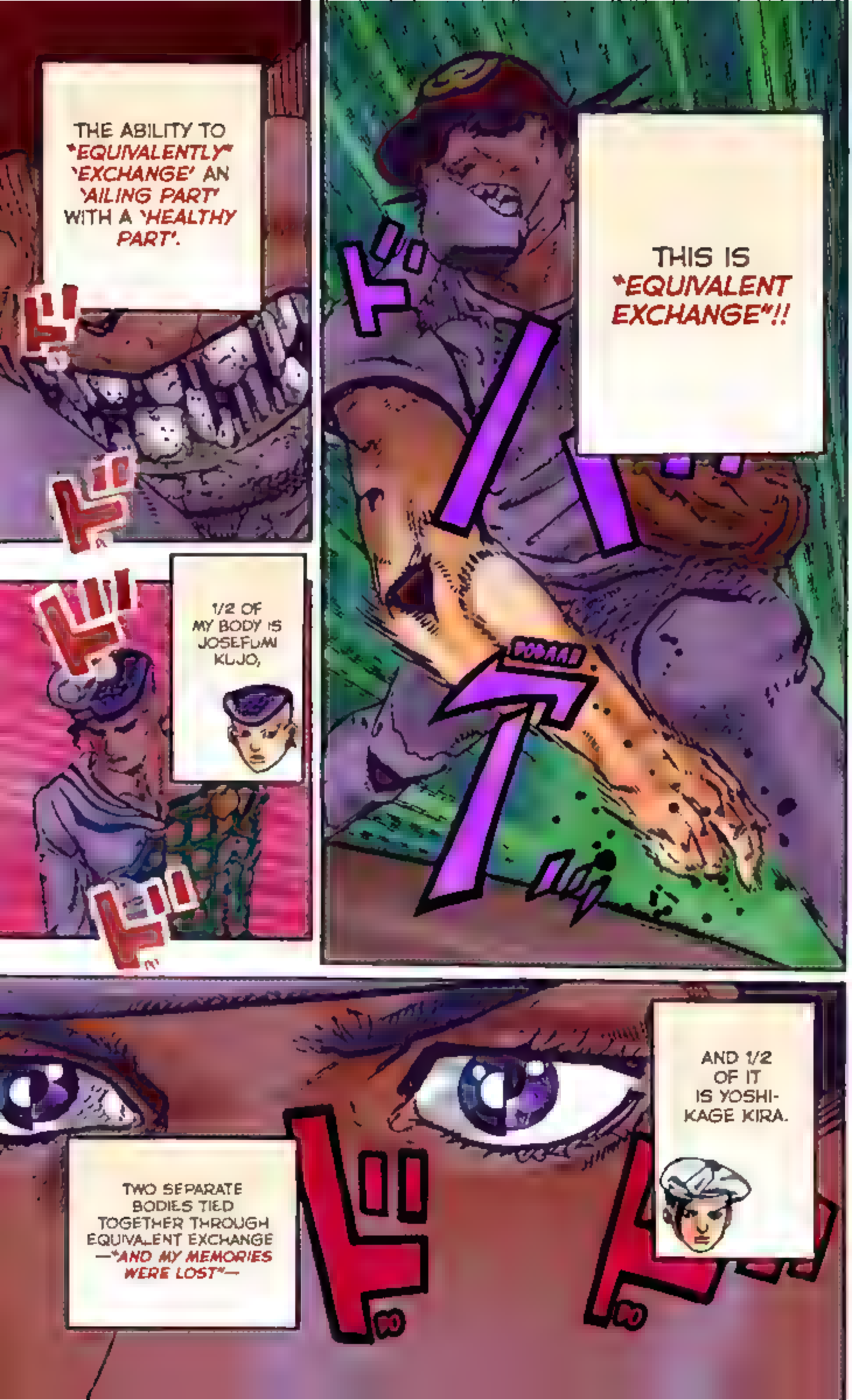
#077 LET'S GO TO TG
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



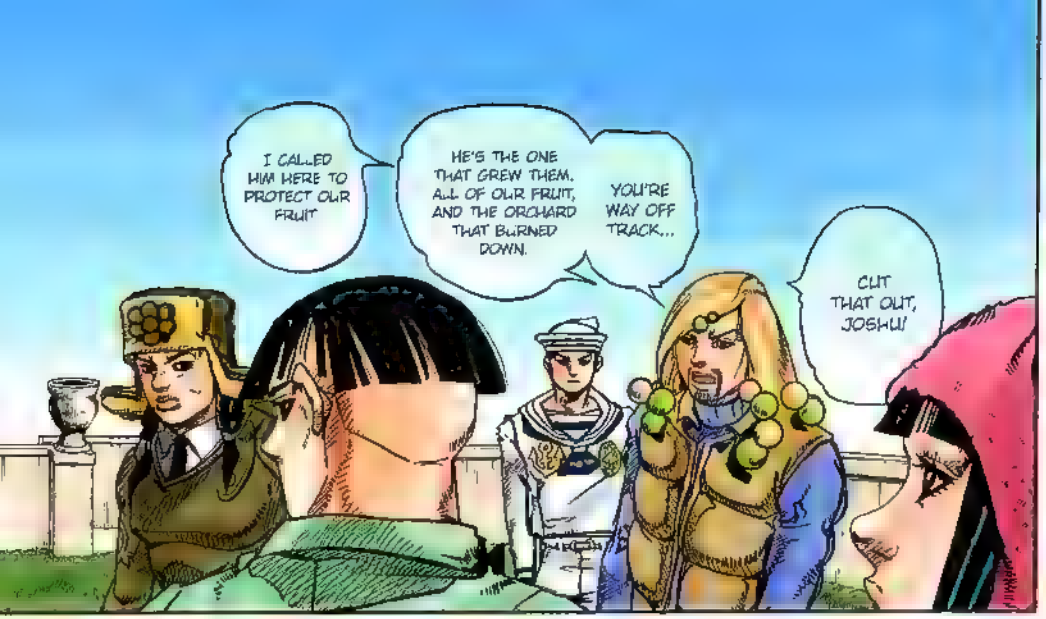

IT'S A FINDING THAT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED ANYWHERE...
MEDICALLY... AND ALSO PHARMA-CEUTICALLY,

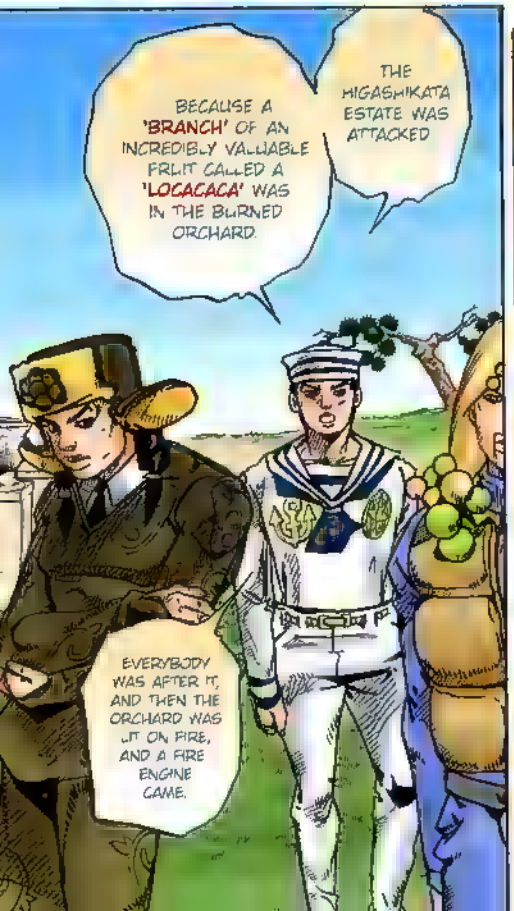

Borneo Island
Sulawesi
BUT THE RARE FRUIT DISCOVERED IN THE PLATEAUS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE "LOCACACA",
...WAS FOUND TO HAVE A "MEDICAL USE"
Equator
Bismarck Archipelago
New Britain Island
Arnhem Land Peninsula

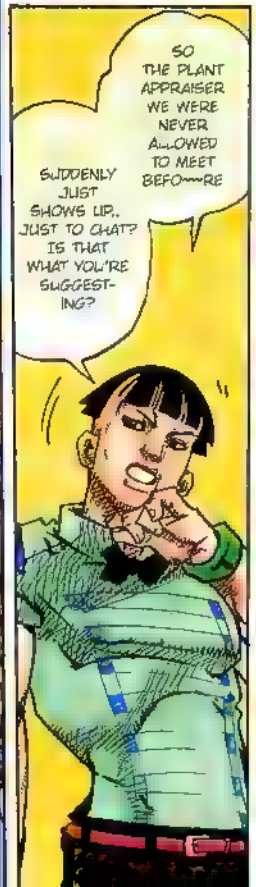

AND HIS DAMAGED SHOULDER
TRADED WITH HIS LOWER JAW,
ALLOWING HIM TO BECOME A PLAYER MAKING 600 MILLION YEN THIS SEASON
WAAA
WAAA
WAAA
A PITCHER FOR THE SEITEN BIRDIES, AH-KUN, HAD RUINED HIS RIGHT SHOULDER AND WAS TOLD IT WOULD NEVER RECOVER. HE WAS ABOUT TO RETIRE, BUT THEN HE ATE A "LOCACACA"

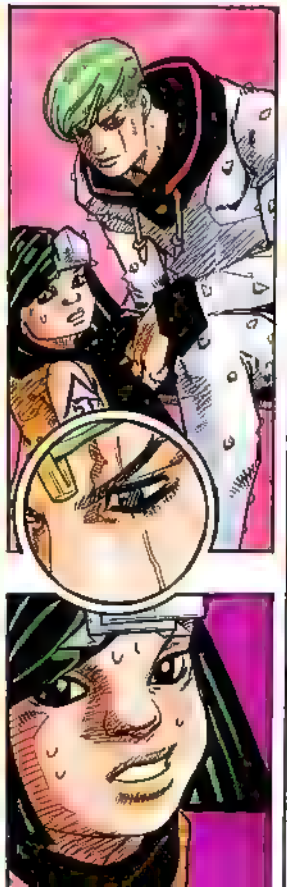

THE ABILITY TO "EQUIVALENTLY" 'EXCHANGE' AN 'AILING PART' WITH A 'HEALTHY PART'.
THIS IS "EQUIVALENT EXCHANGE"!!
1/2 OF MY BODY IS JOSEFUMI KUJO,
AND 1/2 OF IT IS YOSHI-KAGE KIRA.
TWO SEPARATE BODIES TIED TOGETHER THROUGH EQUIVALENT EXCHANGE —"AND MY MEMORIES WERE LOST"—

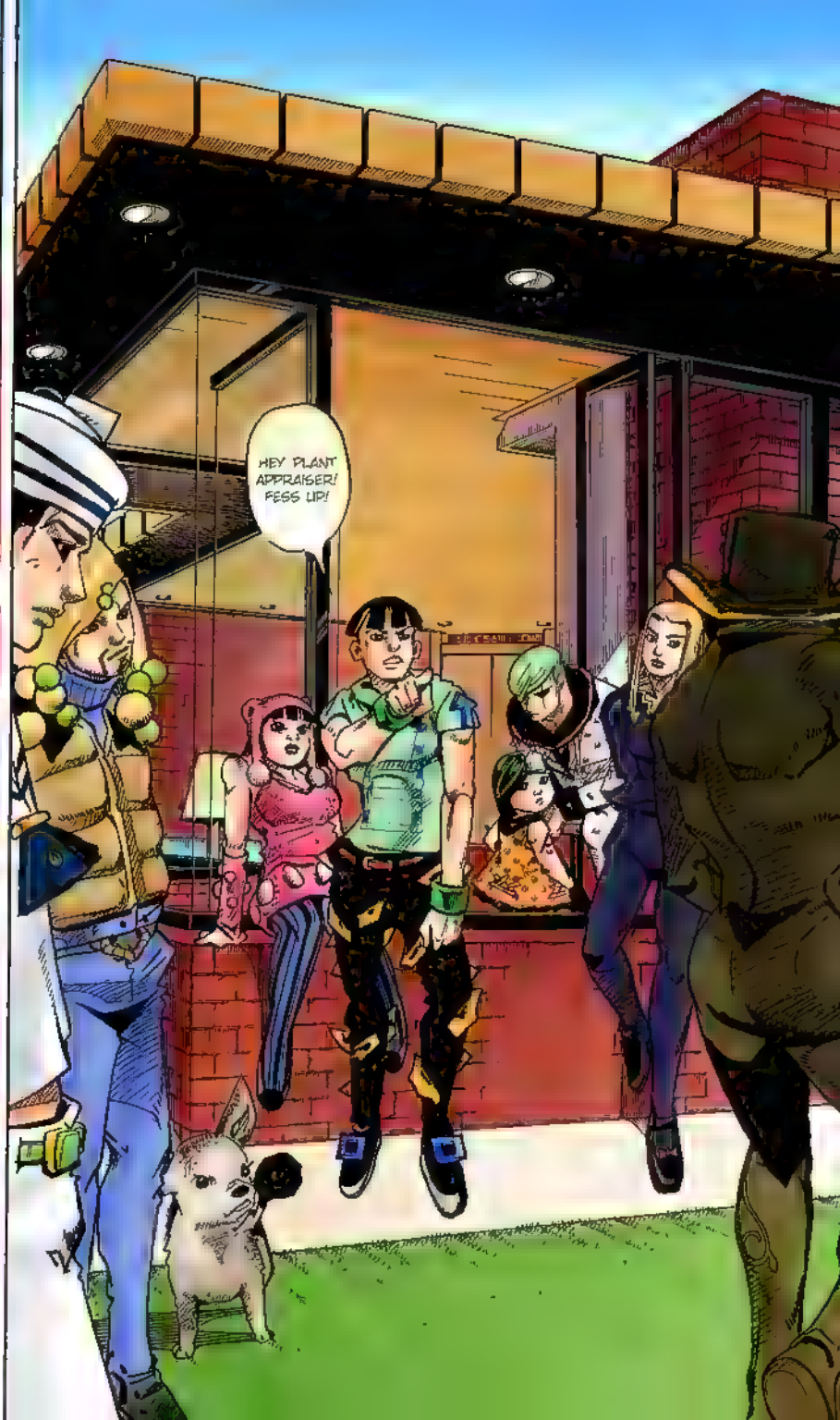
ドビビビ
ドゴ
ドゴ
"WHO" WAS IT THAT STOLE ITS "BRANCH" FROM THE BURNING ORCHARD?!
THAT WAS THE "NEW LOCACACA"...
ドゴ
...
PLANT APPRAISER, ARE YOU THE ONE WHO LIT THE FIRE?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING AT OUR HOUSE OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THIS?
SERIOUSLY, THERE'S SOMETHIN' FISHY HE--RE!!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY SHOWIN' UP ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
ドゴ
ドゴ
ドゴ
HEY~~

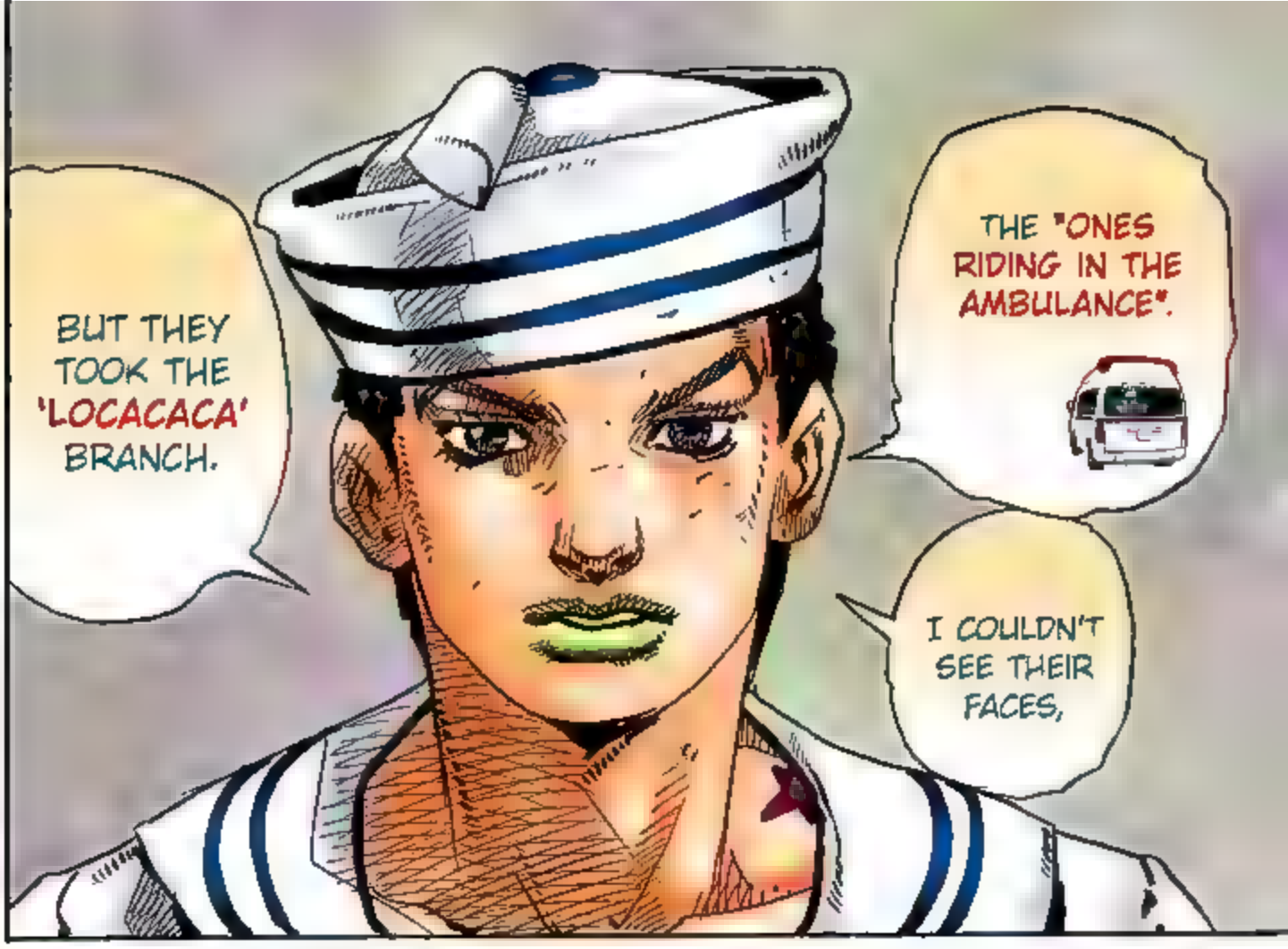

I CALLED HIM HERE TO PROTECT OUR FRUIT
HE'S THE ONE THAT GREW THEM. ALL OF OUR FRUIT, AND THE ORCHARD THAT BURNED DOWN.
YOU'RE WAY OFF TRACK...
CUT THAT OUT, JOSHU!

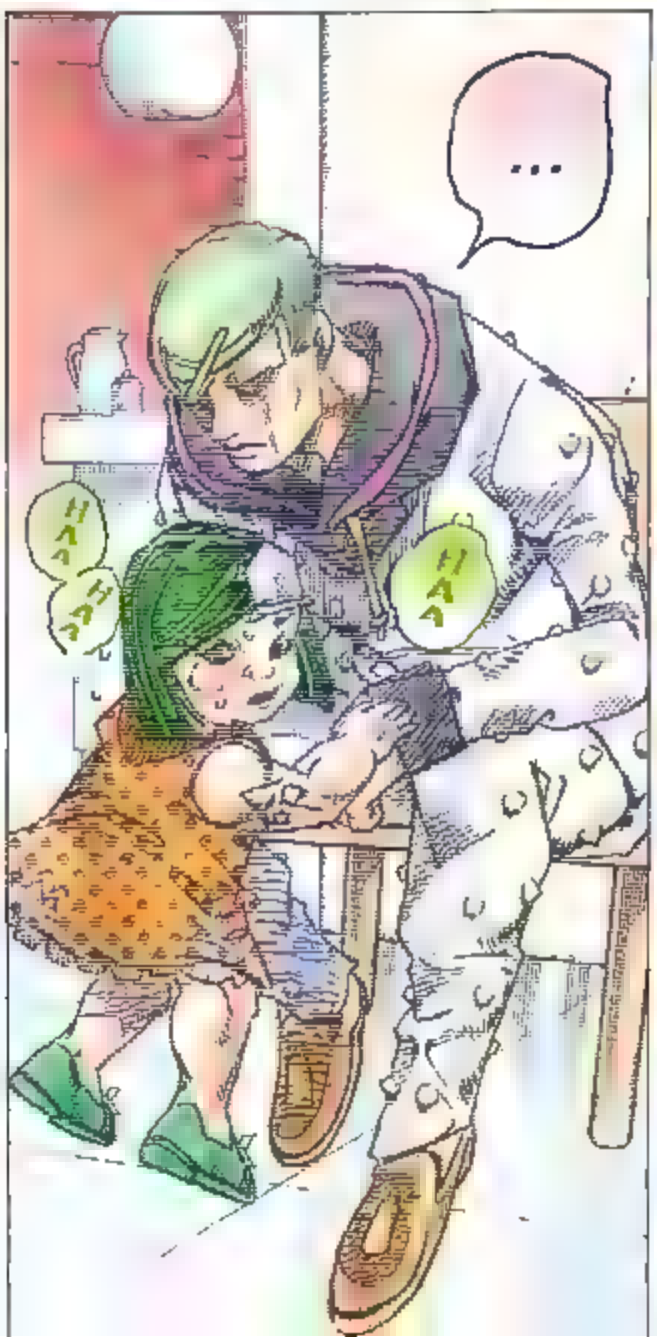

THE HIGASHIKATA ESTATE WAS ATTACKED
BECAUSE A 'BRANCH' OF AN INCREDIBLY VALUABLE FRUIT CALLED A 'LOCACACA' WAS IN THE BURNED ORCHARD.
EVERYBODY WAS AFTER IT, AND THEN THE ORCHARD WAS LIT ON FIRE, AND A FIRE ENGINE CAME.


SO THE PLANT APPRAISER WE WERE NEVER ALLOWED TO MEET BEFOOORE
SUDDENLY JUST SHOWS UP.. JUST TO CHAT? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING?

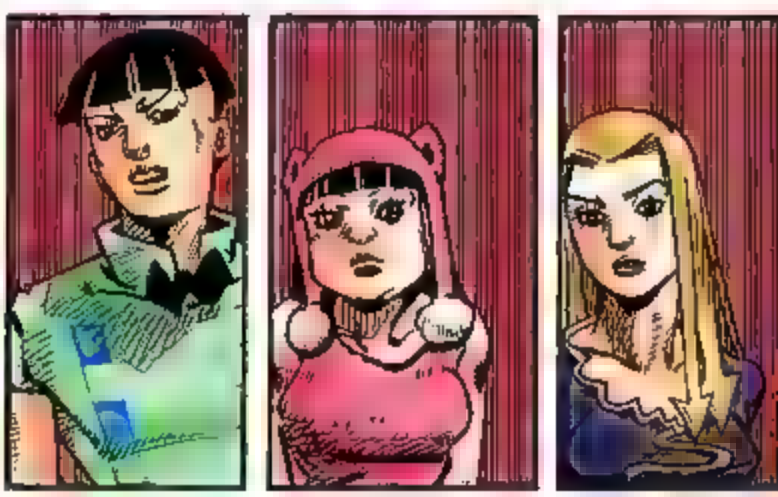



HEY PLANT APPRAISER! FESS UP!


BUT THEY TOOK THE 'LOCACACA' BRANCH.
THE "ONES RIDING IN THE AMBULANCE".
I COULDN'T SEE THEIR FACES,


...
HAAHAA
HAA

ROCK HUMANS.

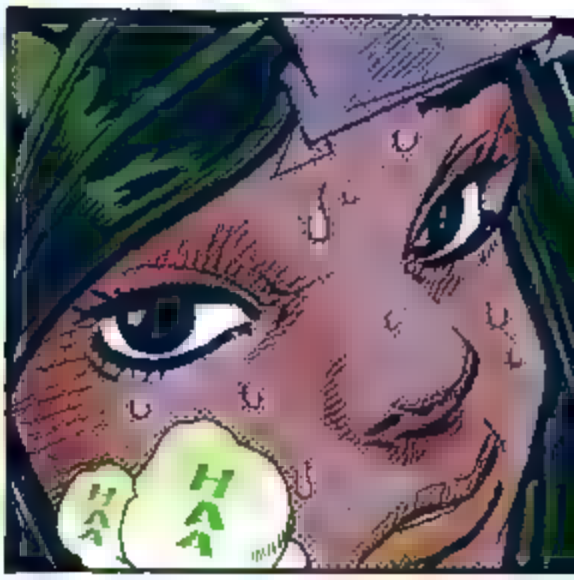


HAA
HAA

JOSUKE
THESE PEOPLE IN THE AMBULANCE
ピク
TWITCH
...
ARE YOU... CERTAIN OF THAT?
YOU SAY THEY "TOOK THE 'BRANCH'"...
THEN IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG TO TRACK THE 'CULPRITS' DOWN.
THE AMBULANCES THAT WOULD COME TO THIS HOUSE
COME FROM THE FIRE STATION UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
YES. THERE WERE TWO OF THEM.
'SOMEONE' RIDING IN THE AMBULANCE TOOK IT.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SAYING YOU SAW THEM STEAL THE 'BRANCH'.
WAS IT REALLY THE ONES IN THE AMBULANCE THAT TOOK THE 'LOCACACA'?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, AM I 'CERTAIN'?

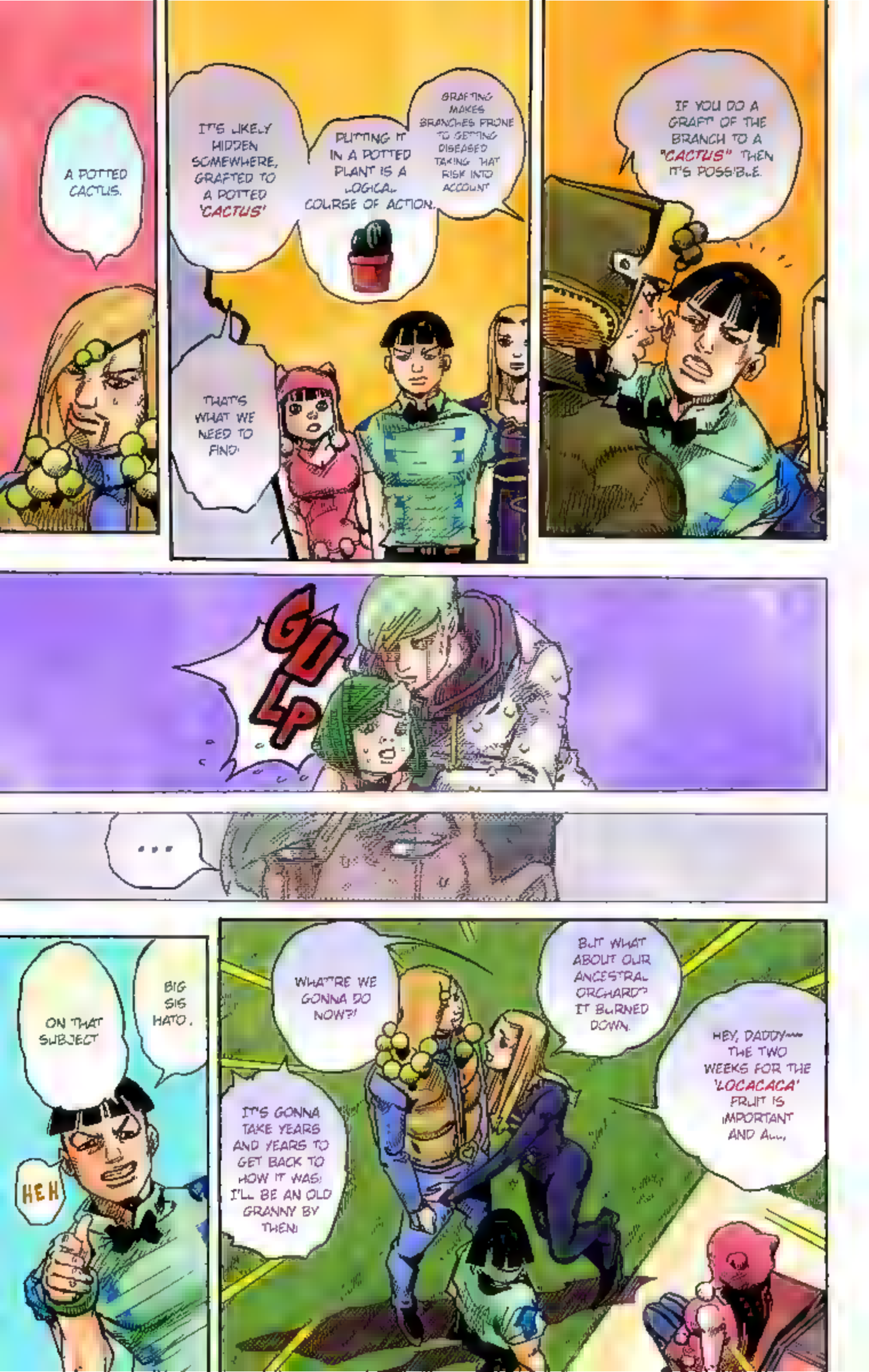
THAT'S OUR TIME LIMIT FOR RETRIEVING THE "LOCACACA" SEEING AS IF THE BRANCH BEARS FRUIT, IT'S OVER
IN THE INTEREST OF EXPLAINING THE SITUATION AND OUR GOALS...
THE 'LOCACACA BRANCH' WILL START TO BEAR FRUIT IN A MINIMUM OF TEN DAYS

HA
HA
HA

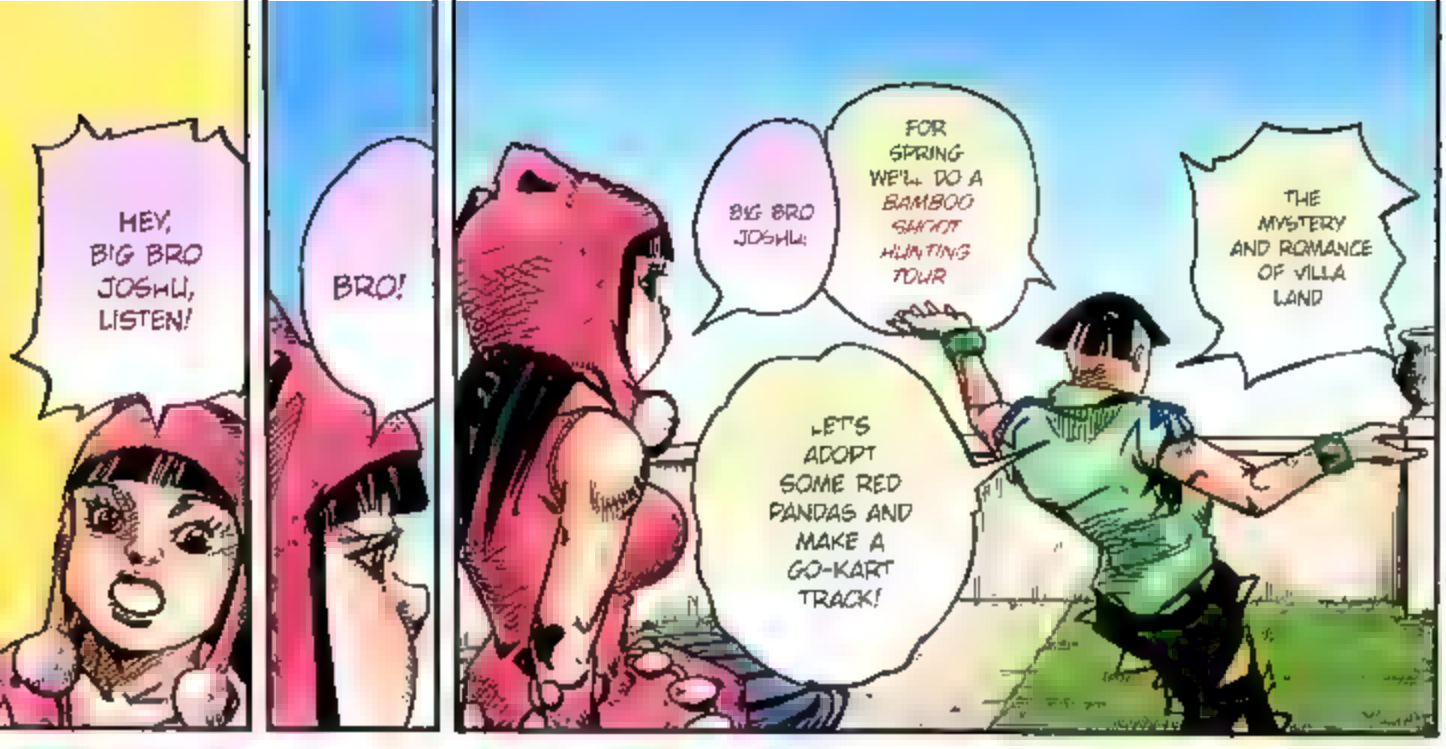

HA
HA

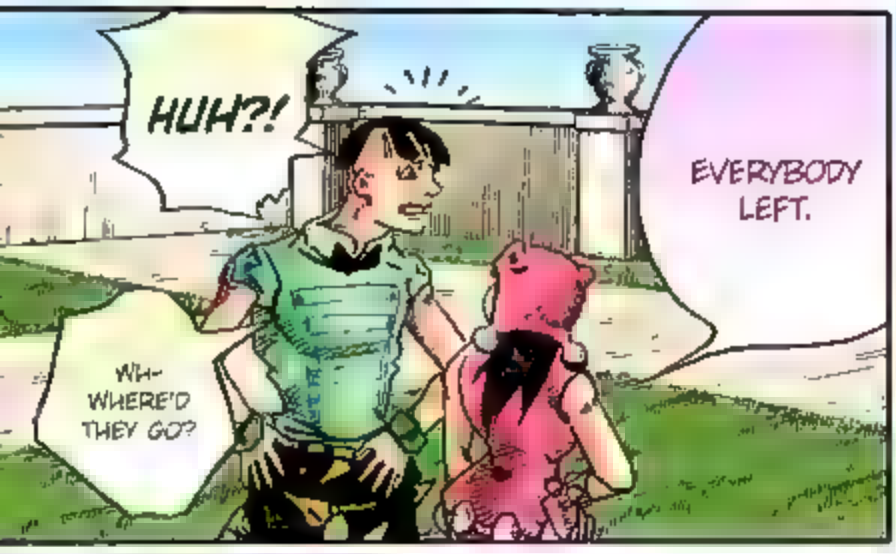
STARTS BEARING FRUIT IN JUST TEN DAYS?!
HEY. PLANT APPRAISER WHAT THE HELL KINDA PLANT
YOU REALLY EXPECT US TO BUY THAT ASSHOLE?!

THE ROKAKAKA FRUIT WILL START BEING PROCESSED
AFTER THAT POINT RETRIEVING IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE


A POTTED CACTUS.
IT'S LIKELY HIDDEN SOMEWHERE, GRAFTED TO A POTTED 'CACTUS'
PUTTING IT IN A POTTED PLANT IS A LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION.
GRAFTING MAKES BRANCHES PRONE TO GETTING DISEASED TAKING THAT RISK INTO ACCOUNT
THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO FIND!
IF YOU DO A GRAFT OF THE BRANCH TO A "CACTUS" THEN IT'S POSSIBLE.
GULP
...
ON THAT SUBJECT
BIG SIS HATO.
HEH
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?!
IT'S GONNA TAKE YEARS AND YEARS TO GET BACK TO HOW IT WAS! I'LL BE AN OLD GRANNY BY THEN!
BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR ANCESTRAL ORCHARD? IT BURNED DOWN.
HEY, DADDY~~ THE TWO WEEKS FOR THE 'LOCACACA' FRUIT IS IMPORTANT AND ALL,

HUUH? WHADDA YOU MEAN?
NEW BUSINESS?
WE CAN DO A NEW BUSINESS WITH THE BURNT LAND.
SO THEN THERE WON'T BE ANY CHANGES WITH THE JOB OF THE HIGASHIKA A FAMILY ORCHARD.
UNTIL NEW FRUIT TREES GROW
LISTEN TO ME~!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT'LL PUT EVERYBODY'S MINDS AT EASE!
I'M THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY SECOND SON THAT EVERYBODY COUNTS ON, AFTER ALL!
MORIOH'S FULL A' VACATION HOME FAMILIES,
WE START A "MATSUTAKE MUSHROOM HUNTING TOUR" IN THE ORCHARD!
SO I'M SURE THEY'LL BE PLENTY WHO'LL DROP THEIR MONEY ON THAT!
WE JUST GOTTA STICK FOUR OR FIVE UNDER SOME LEAVES SOME-WHERE
IT'S A TOUR WHERE YOU SEARCH OUT A TARGET!
LIKE MAYBE SOME FROM CHINA.
UH. ARE THERE ANY 'MATSUTAKE MUSHROOMS' GROWING ON OUR LAND?
MUSHROOM HUNTING?

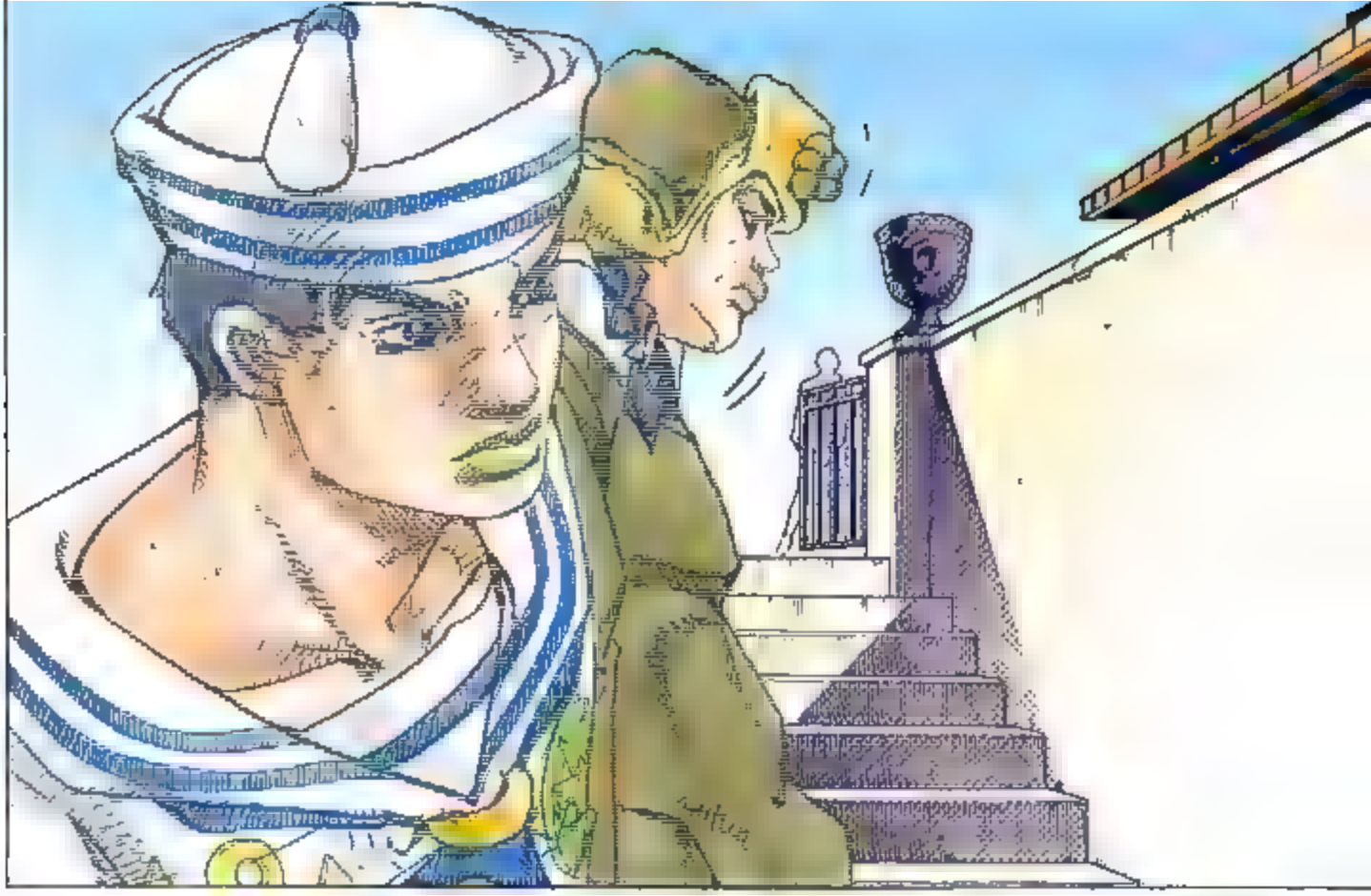

HEY, BIG BRO JOSHU, LISTEN!
BRO!
BIG BRO JOSHU:
FOR SPRING WE'LL DO A BAMBOO SHOOT HUNTING TOUR
THE MYSTERY AND ROMANCE OF VILLA LAND
LET'S ADOPT SOME RED PANDAS AND MAKE A GO-KART TRACK!

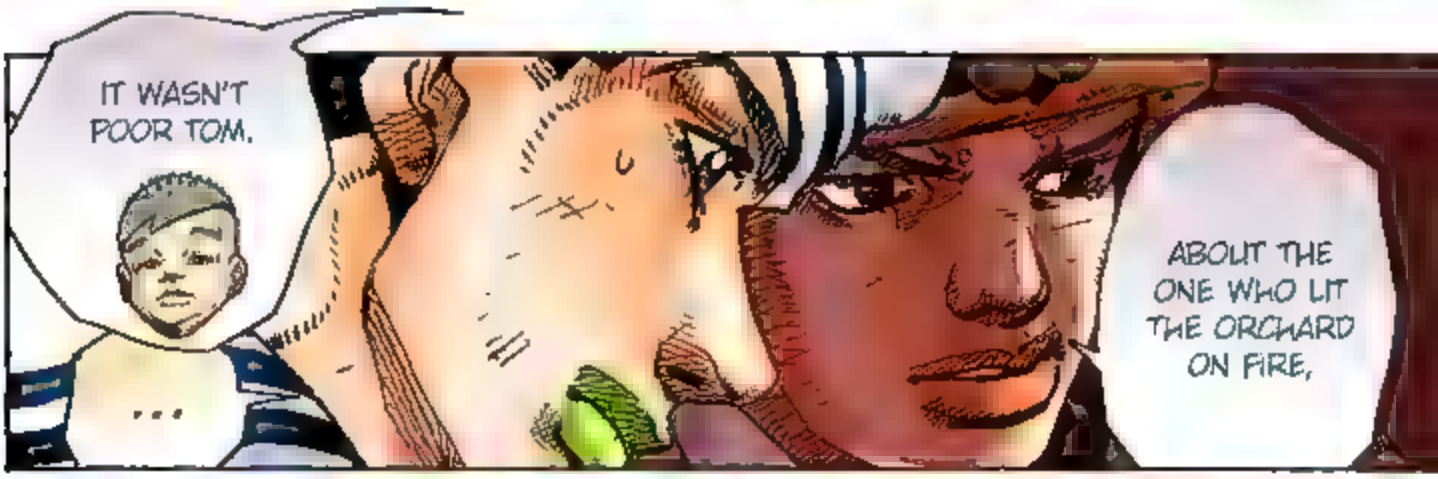

HUH?!
EVERYBODY LEFT.
WH-WHERE'D THEY GO?

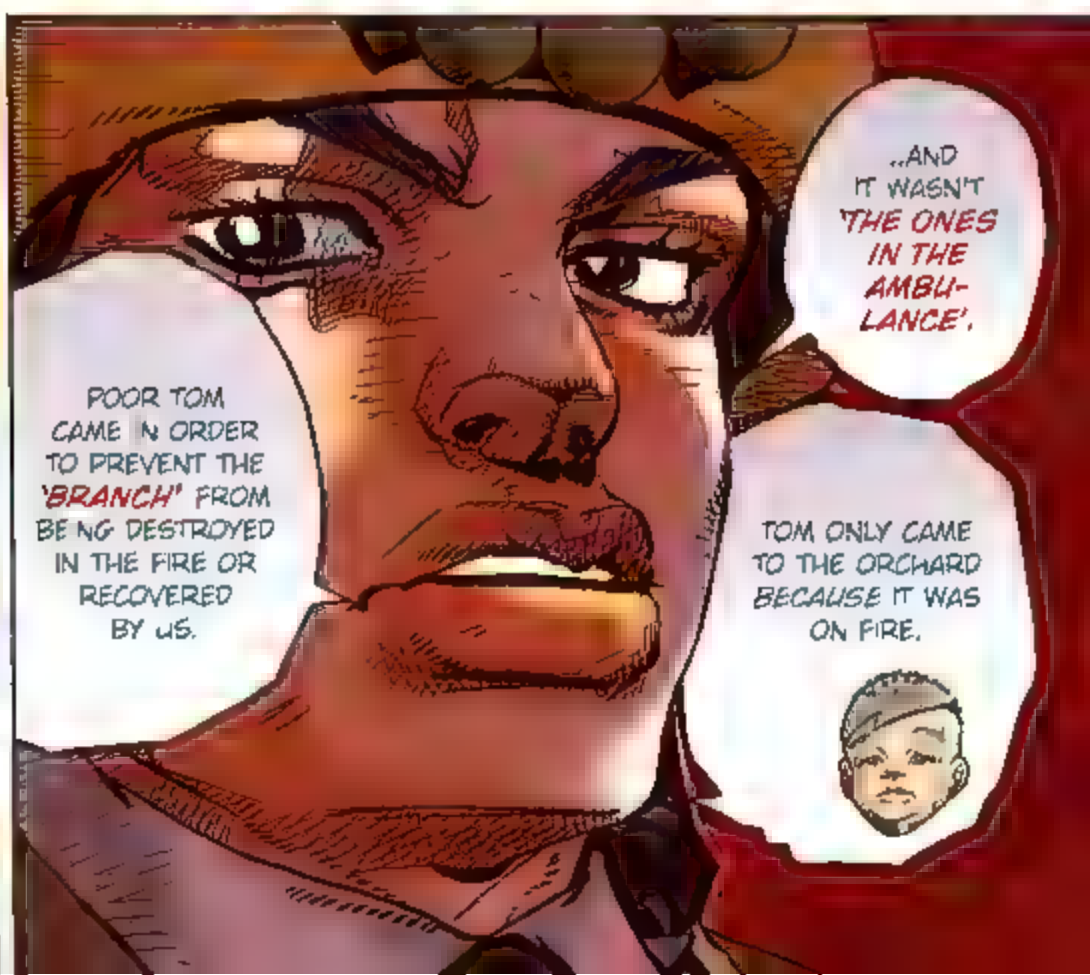
WHAT IS IT... DAIYA?

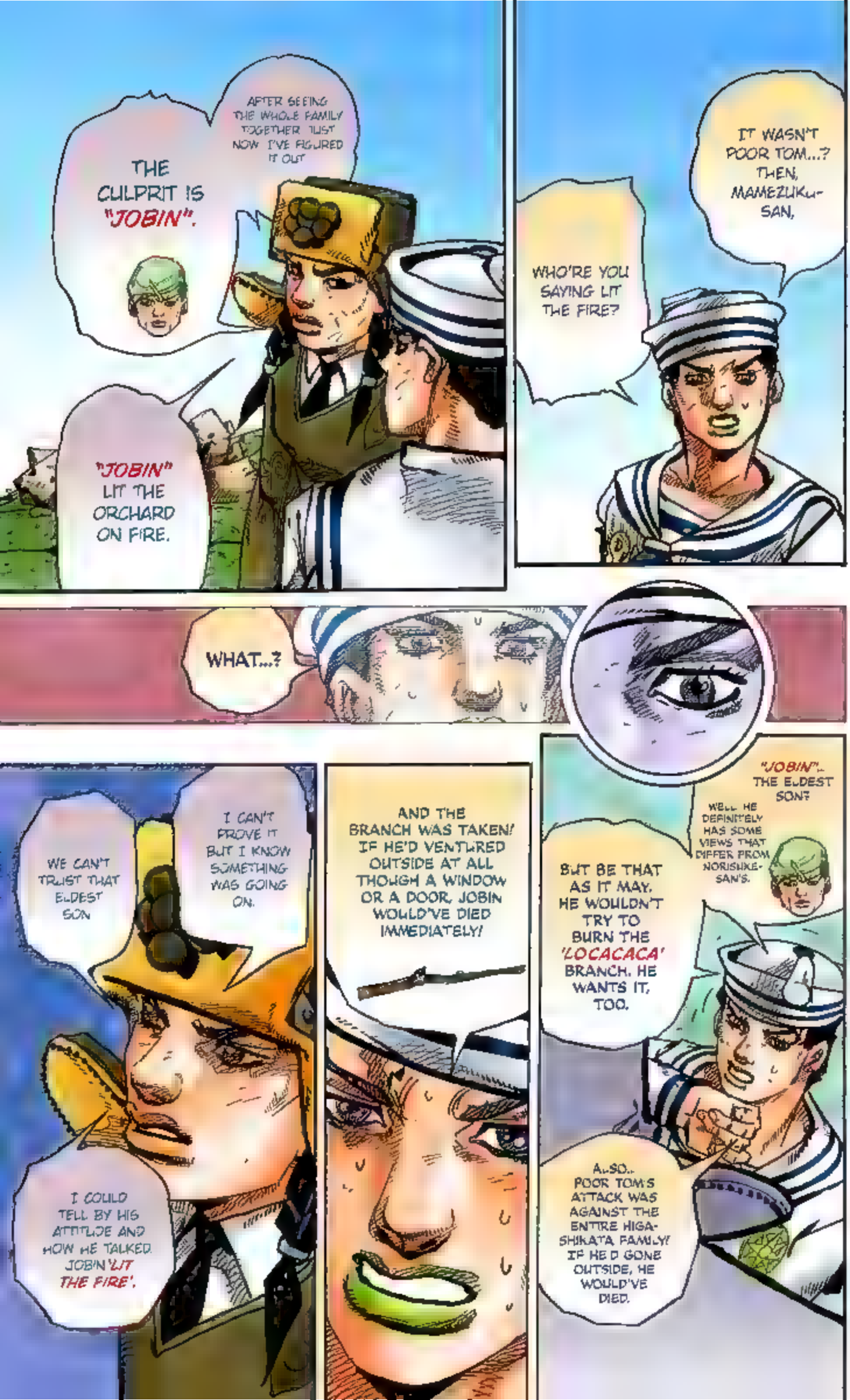
WAIT JUSUKE

DAMD! HATO-CHAN!
C'MON, YA GOTTA HEAR ME OUT!
BUT I LIKE YOUR IDEAS. I'LL BE CHEERING YOU ON, BIG BRO! ♡
IT'S A TRADITION IN THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY NOT TO GET MUCH RECOGNITION WHEN YOU'RE STILL PRETTY YOUNG AFTER ALL



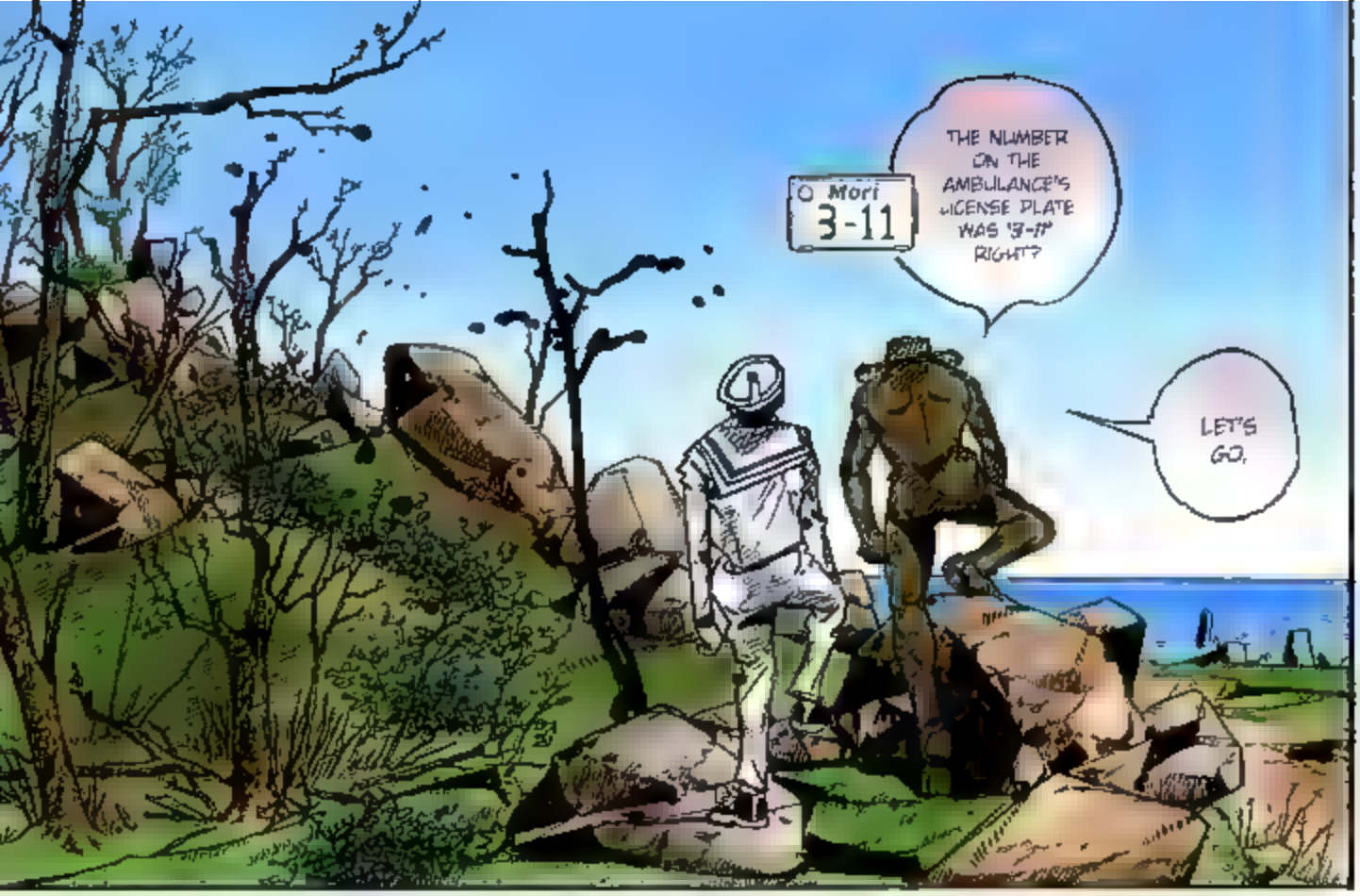

IT WASN'T POOR TOM.
...
ABOUT THE ONE WHO LIT THE ORCHARD ON FIRE,


POOR TOM CAME IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE 'BRANCH' FROM BE NG DESTROYED IN THE FIRE OR RECOVERED BY US.
..AND IT WASN'T 'THE ONES IN THE AMBU-LANCE'.
TOM ONLY CAME TO THE ORCHARD BECAUSE IT WAS ON FIRE.

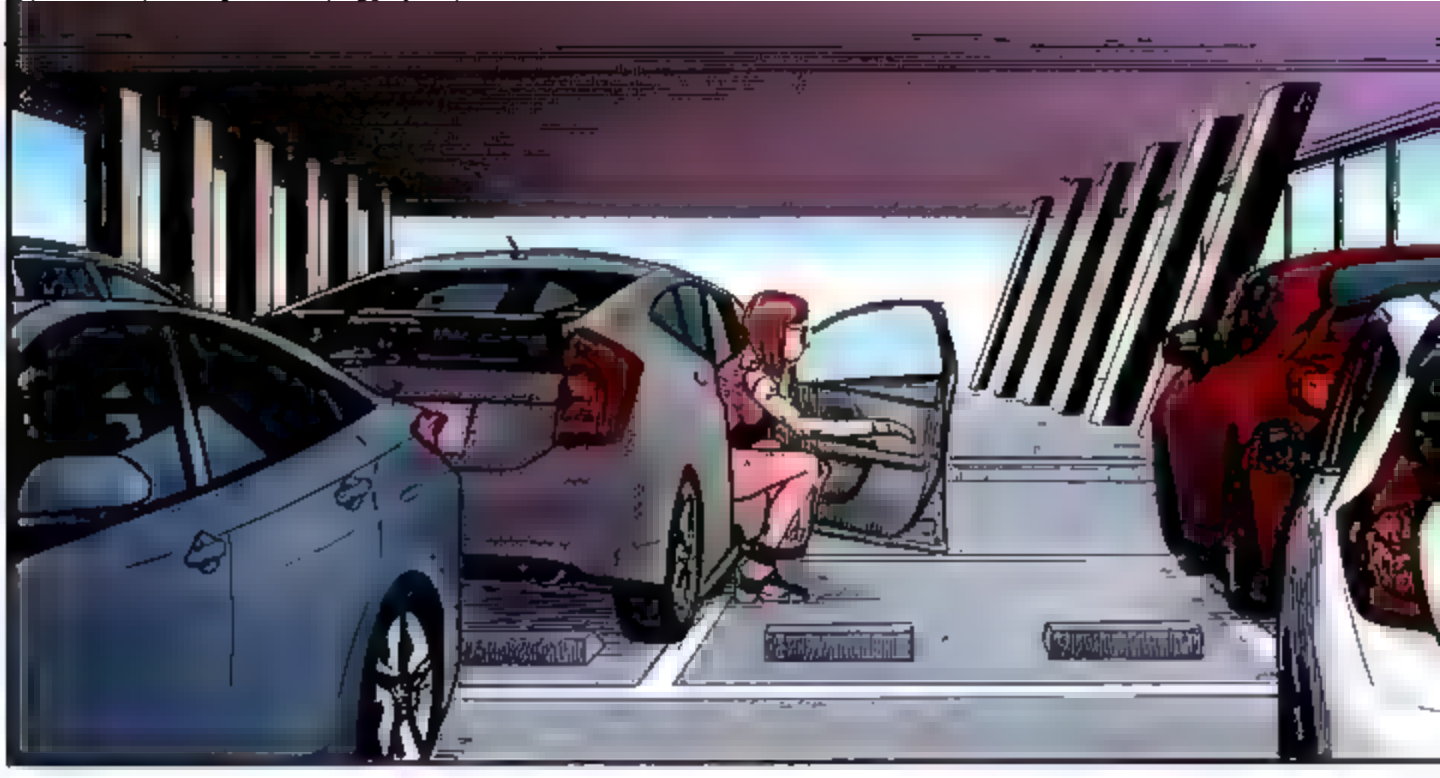

AFTER SEEING THE WHOLE FAMILY TOGETHER JUST NOW I'VE FIGURED IT OUT
THE CULPRIT IS "JOBIN".
"JOBIN" LIT THE ORCHARD ON FIRE.
IT WASN'T POOR TOM...? THEN, MAMEZUKU-SAN,
WHO'RE YOU SAYING LIT THE FIRE?
WHAT...?
WE CAN'T TRUST THAT ELDEST SON
I CAN'T PROVE IT BUT I KNOW SOMETHING WAS GOING ON.
I COULD TELL BY HIS ATTITUDE AND HOW HE TALKED JOBIN 'LIT THE FIRE'.
AND THE BRANCH WAS TAKEN! IF HE'D VENTURED OUTSIDE AT ALL THOUGH A WINDOW OR A DOOR, JOBIN WOULD'VE DIED IMMEDIATELY!
"JOBIN"... THE ELDEST SON?
WELL HE DEFINITELY HAS SOME VIEWS THAT DIFFER FROM NORISHIKE-SAN'S.
BUT BE THAT AS IT MAY, HE WOULDN'T TRY TO BURN THE 'LOCACACA' BRANCH. HE WANTS IT, TOO.
ALSO.. POOR TOM'S ATTACK WAS AGAINST THE ENTIRE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY! IF HE'D GONE OUTSIDE, HE WOULD'VE DIED.

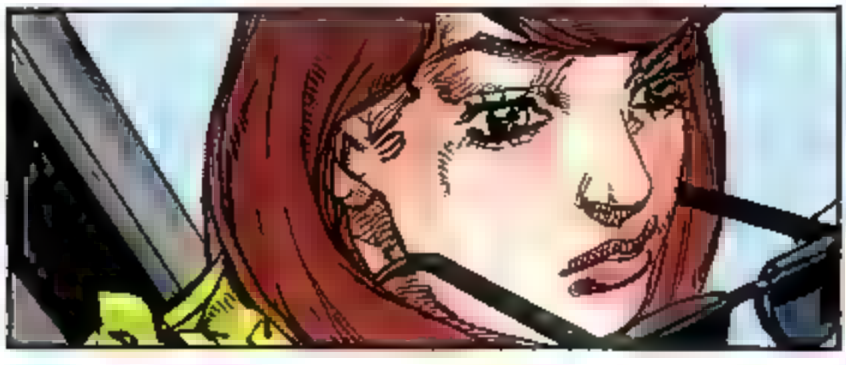
THE 'FIRE' WAS JOBIN...?
...
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE FIRE THAT WE WERE ABLE TO AVOID EVERYONE BEING KILLED.
IS WE WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT 'POOR TOM' BECAUSE THE FIRE WAS LIT
ONE WAY TO LOOK AT IT.
POOR TOM'S STAND WE WERE JUST ON THE BRINK OF LOSING TO THAT PRESSURE ATTACK
WE NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
SOME-THING'S GOING ON WITH JOBIN.
I'LL START A STEALTH INVESTI-GATION.

WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT 'BRANCH' BACK.
THE THREAT RIGHT NOW IS THE PEOPLE WHO WERE IN THE 'AMBULANCE'.

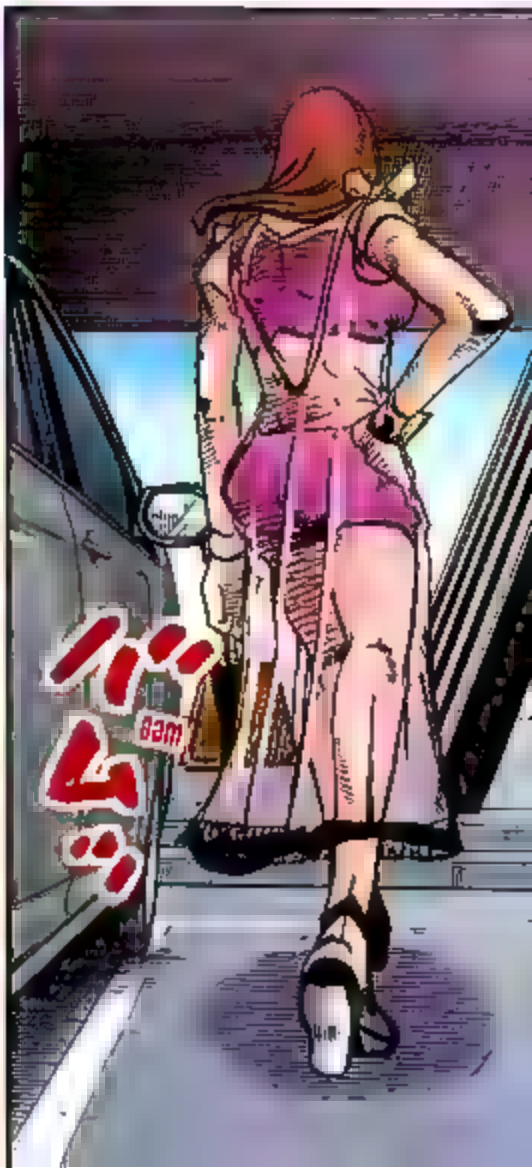

Mori
3-11
THE NUMBER ON THE AMBULANCE'S LICENSE PLATE WAS '3-11' RIGHT?
LET'S GO.

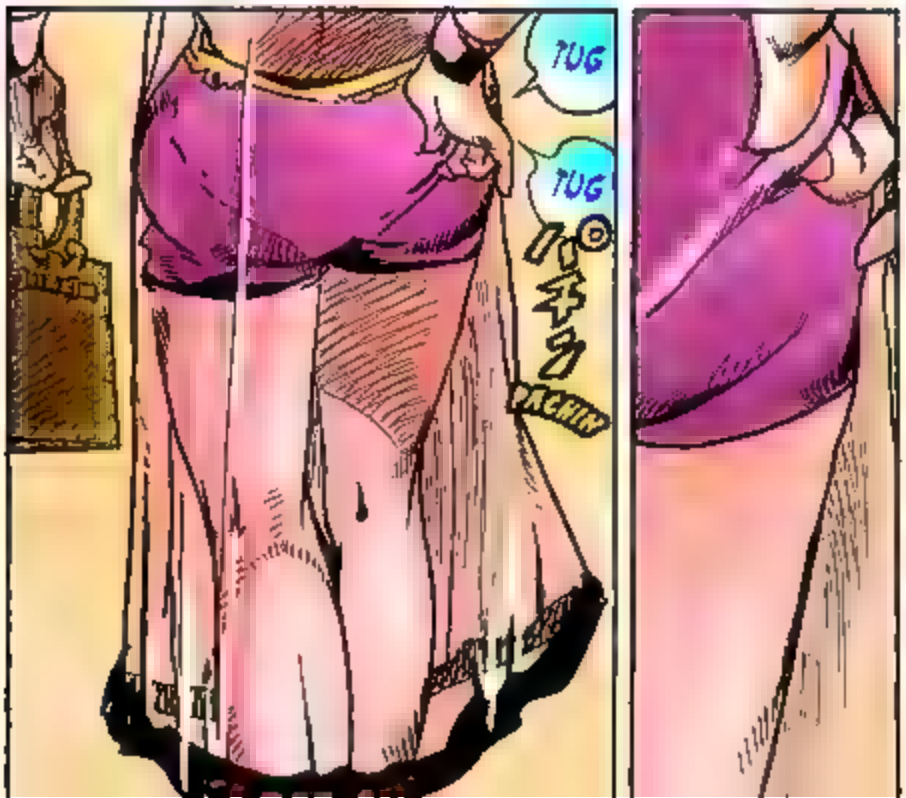
P





TUG


BAM


TUG
TUG
パチク
PACHIN

KUN
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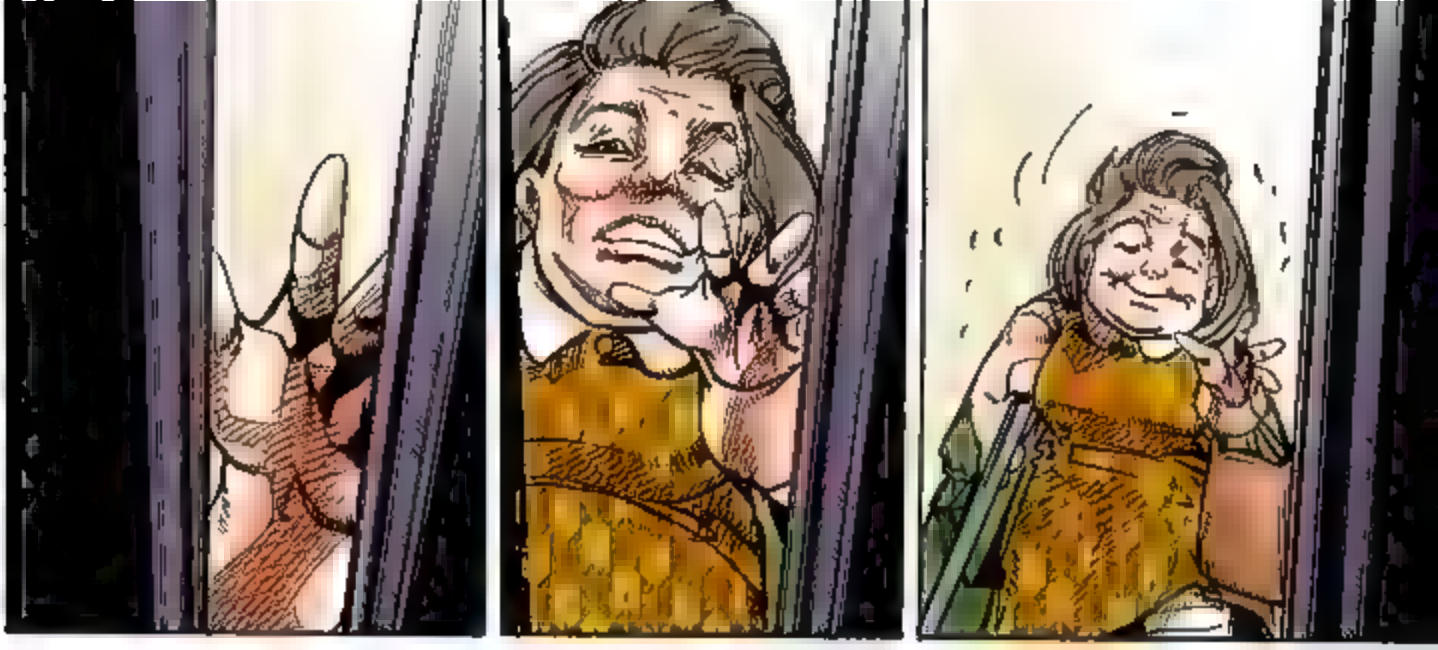
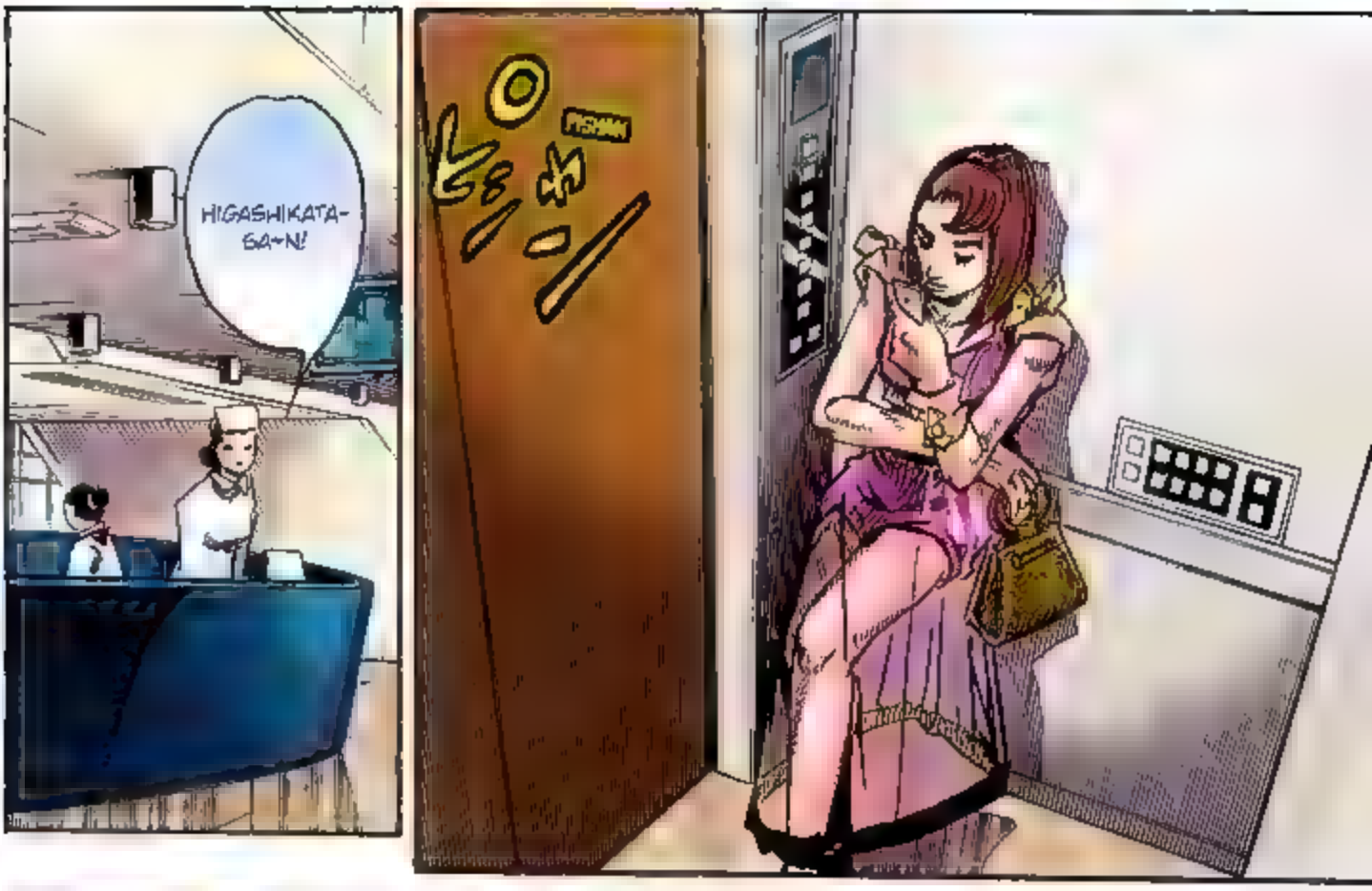
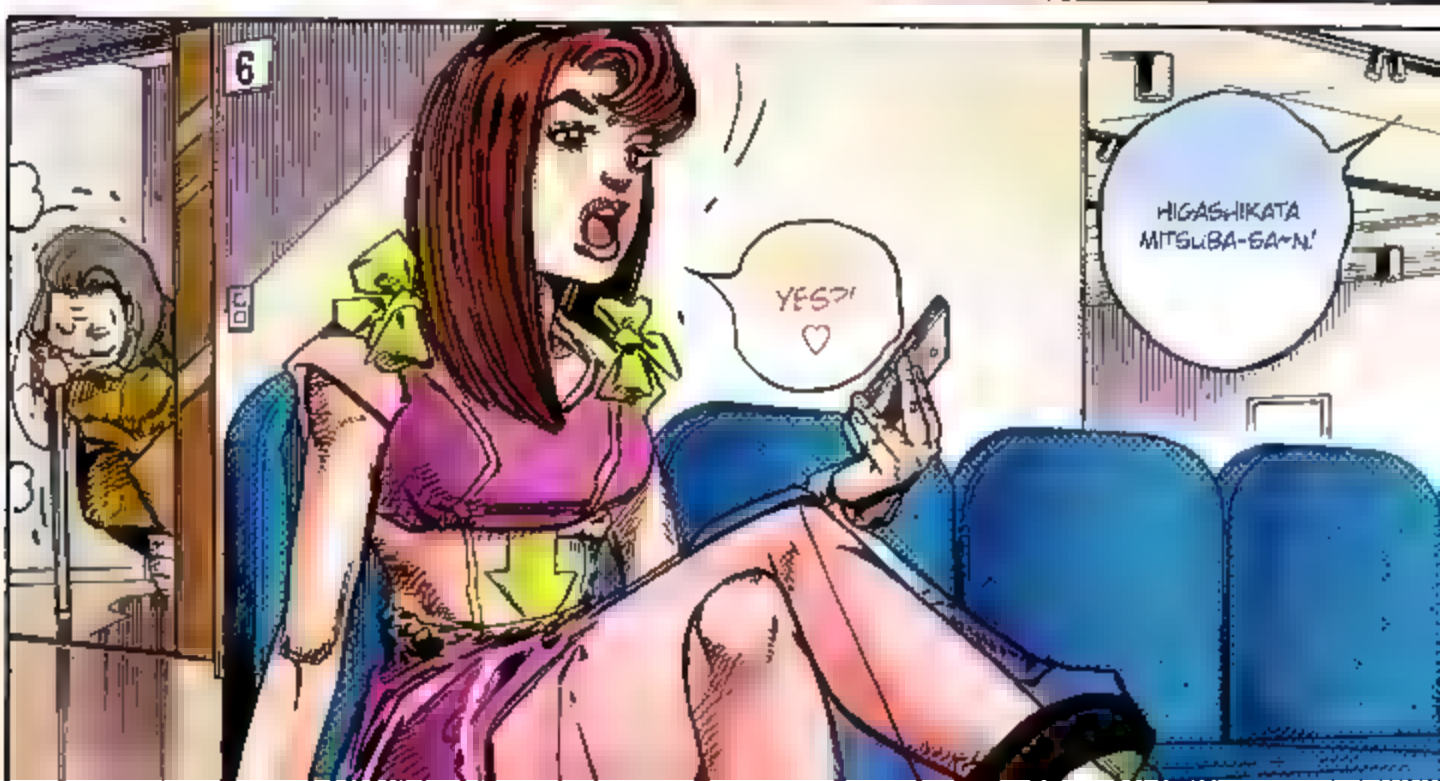
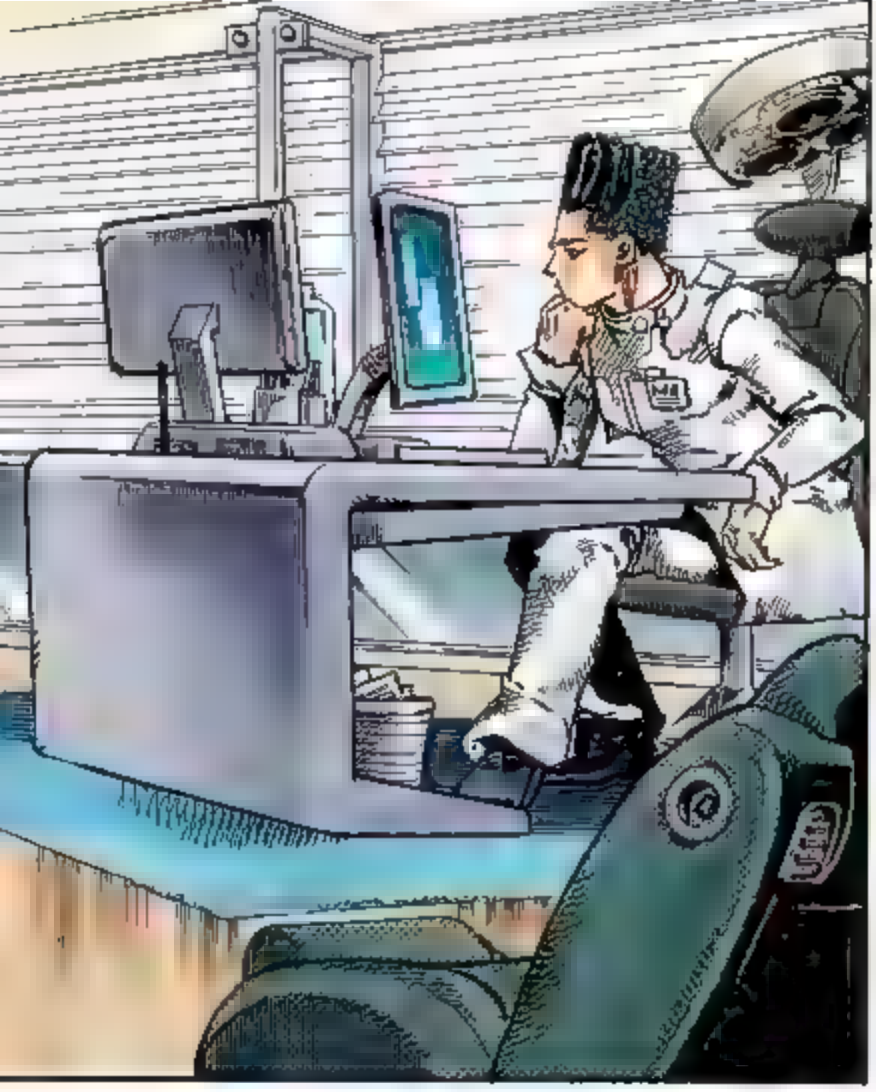
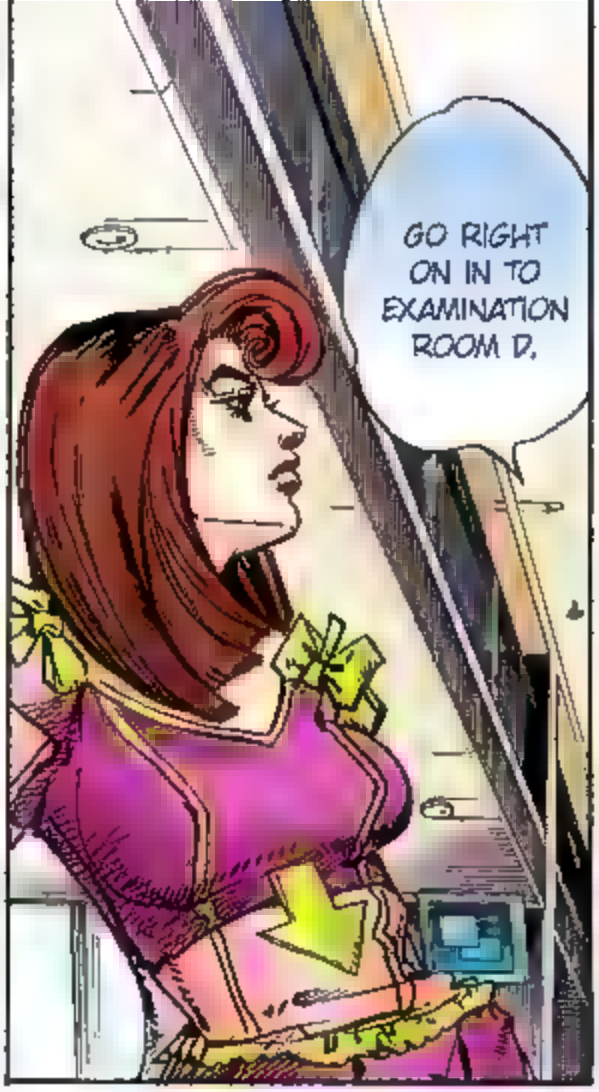
WBBL
WBBL

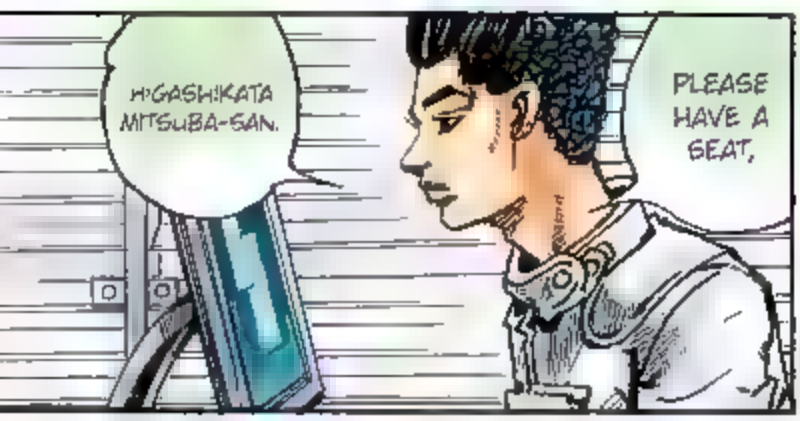


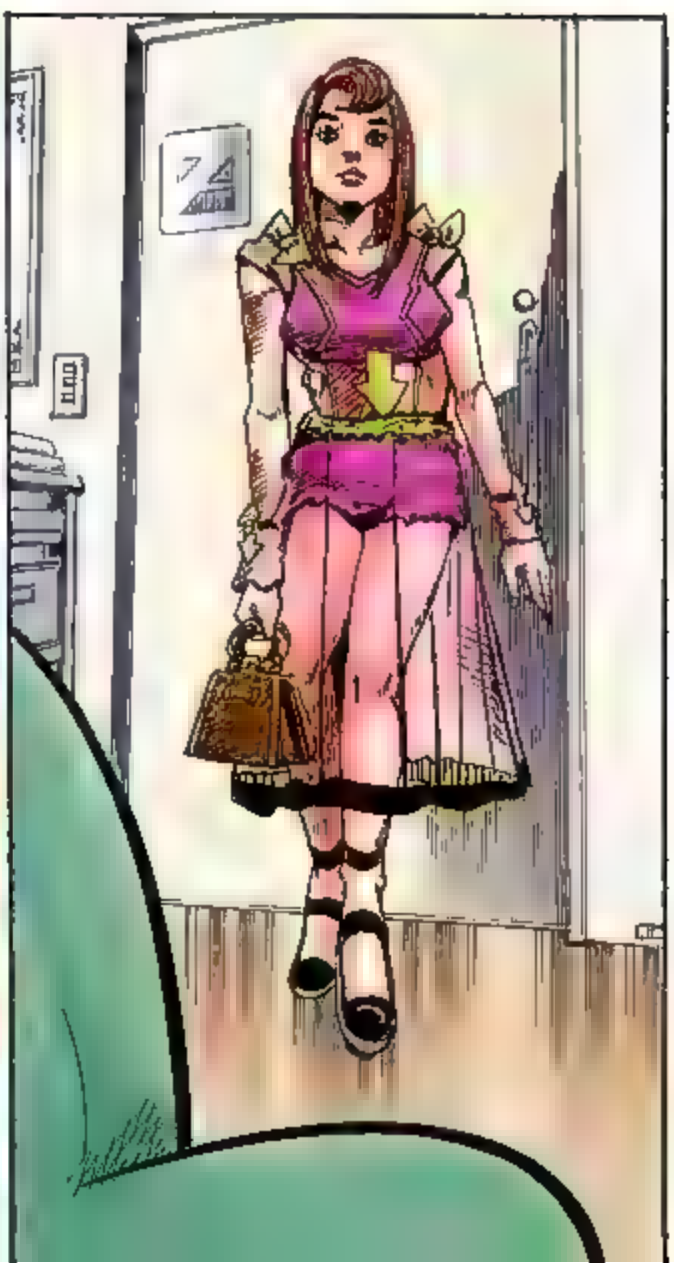

HIGASHIKATA-SA~N!
ピンポーン

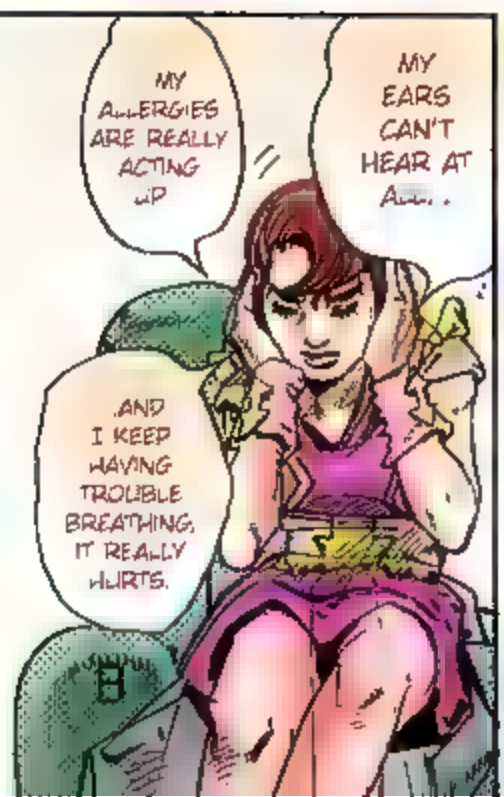

6
YES?!
♡
HIGASHIKATA MITSUBA-SA~N!



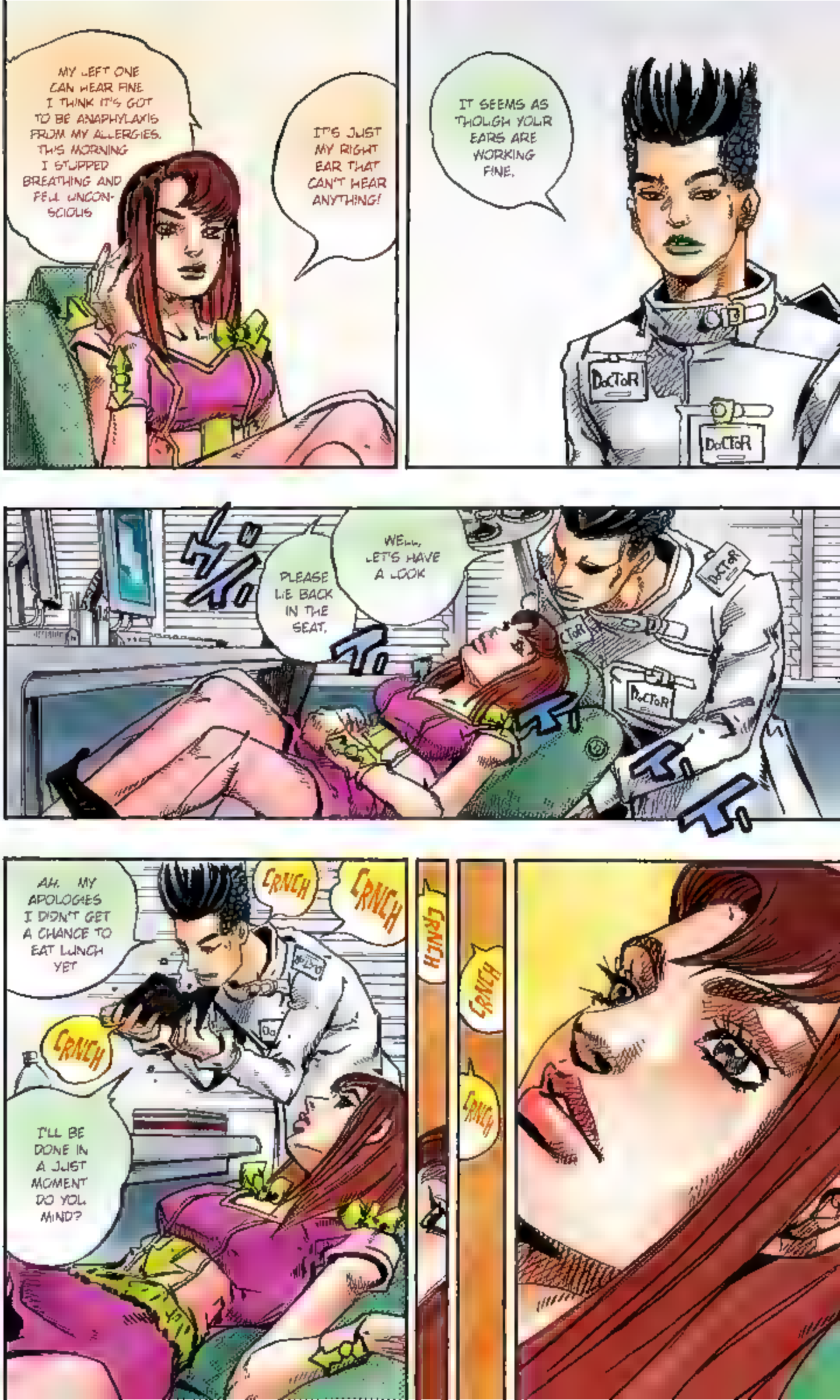

GO RIGHT ON IN TO EXAMINATION ROOM D.

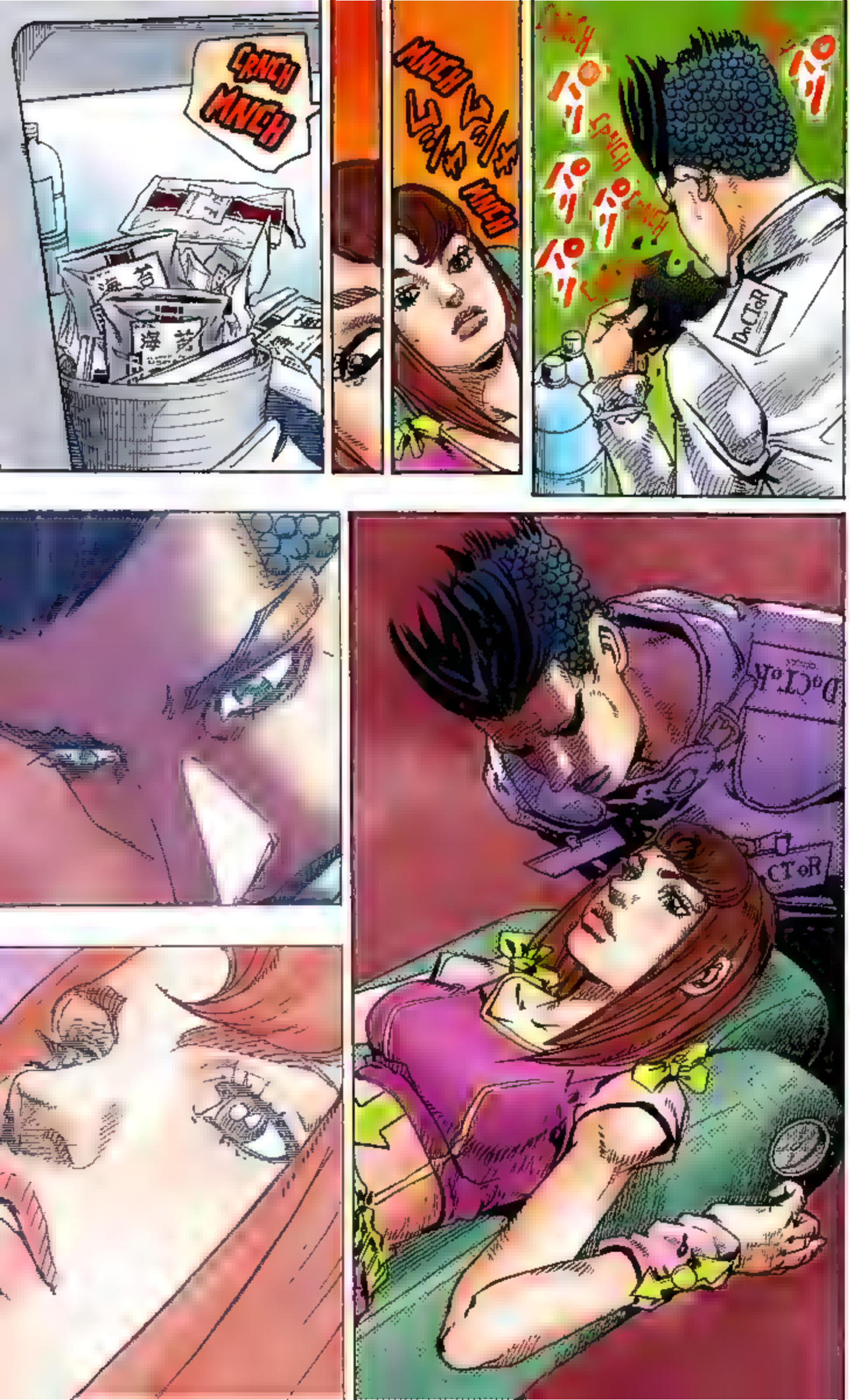

HIGASHIKATA MITSUBA-SAN.
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.

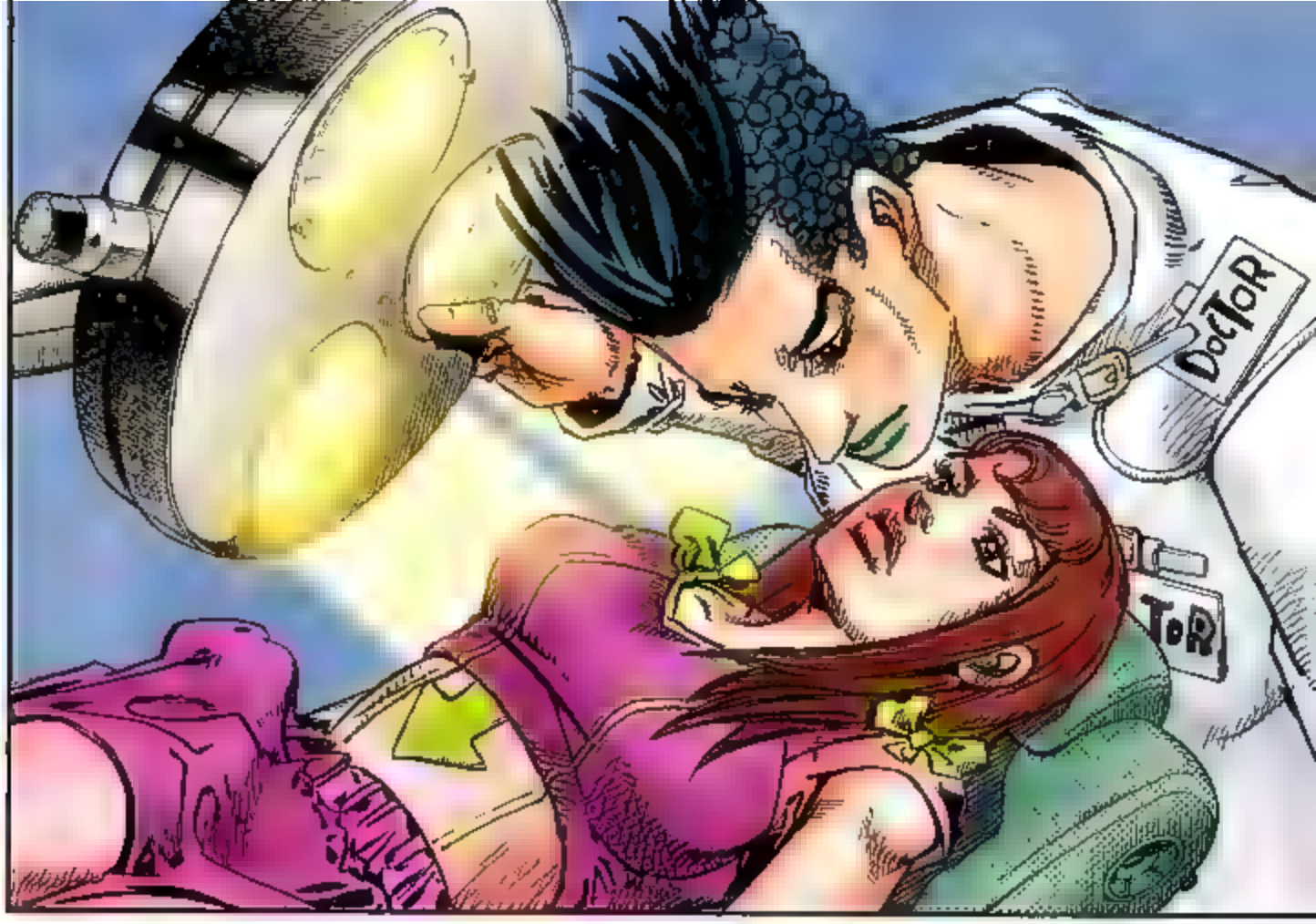


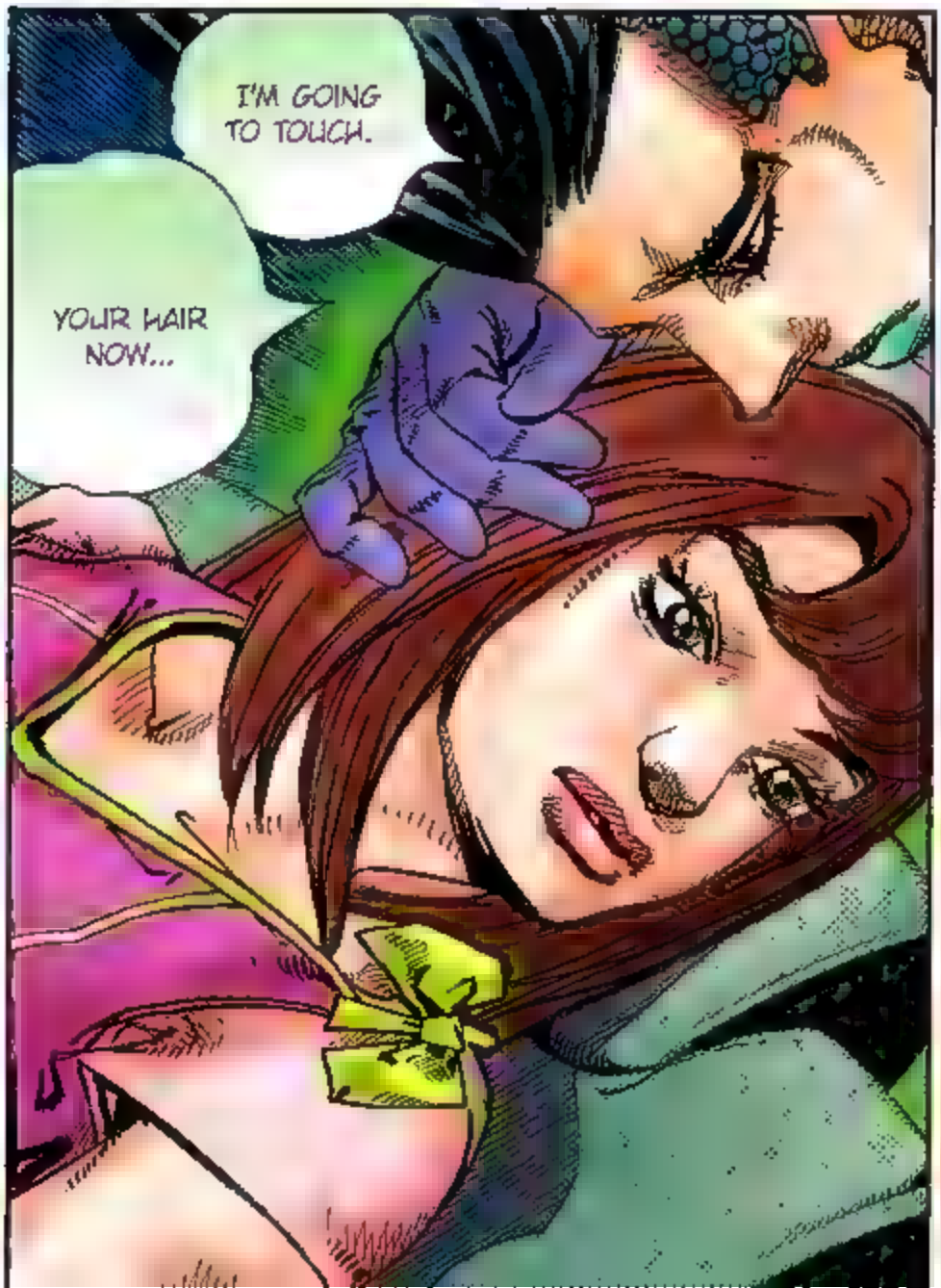

MY ALLERGIES ARE REALLY ACTING UP
MY EARS CAN'T HEAR AT ALL..
AND I KEEP HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING. IT REALLY HURTS.

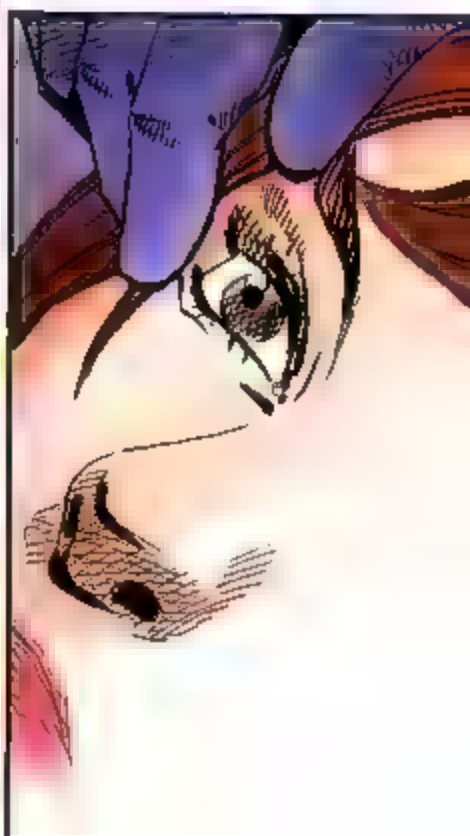
HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?
DOCTOR


MY LEFT ONE CAN HEAR FINE I THINK IT'S GOT TO BE ANAPHYLAXIS FROM MY ALLERGIES. THIS MORNING I STOPPED BREATHING AND FELL UNCONSCIOUS
IT'S JUST MY RIGHT EAR THAT CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOUR EARS ARE WORKING FINE.
DOCTOR
DOCTOR
PLEASE LIE BACK IN THE SEAT.
WE..., LET'S HAVE A LOOK
DOCTOR
DOCTOR
AH. MY APOLOGIES I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO EAT LUNCH YET
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
I'LL BE DONE IN A JUST MOMENT DO YOU MIND?
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH

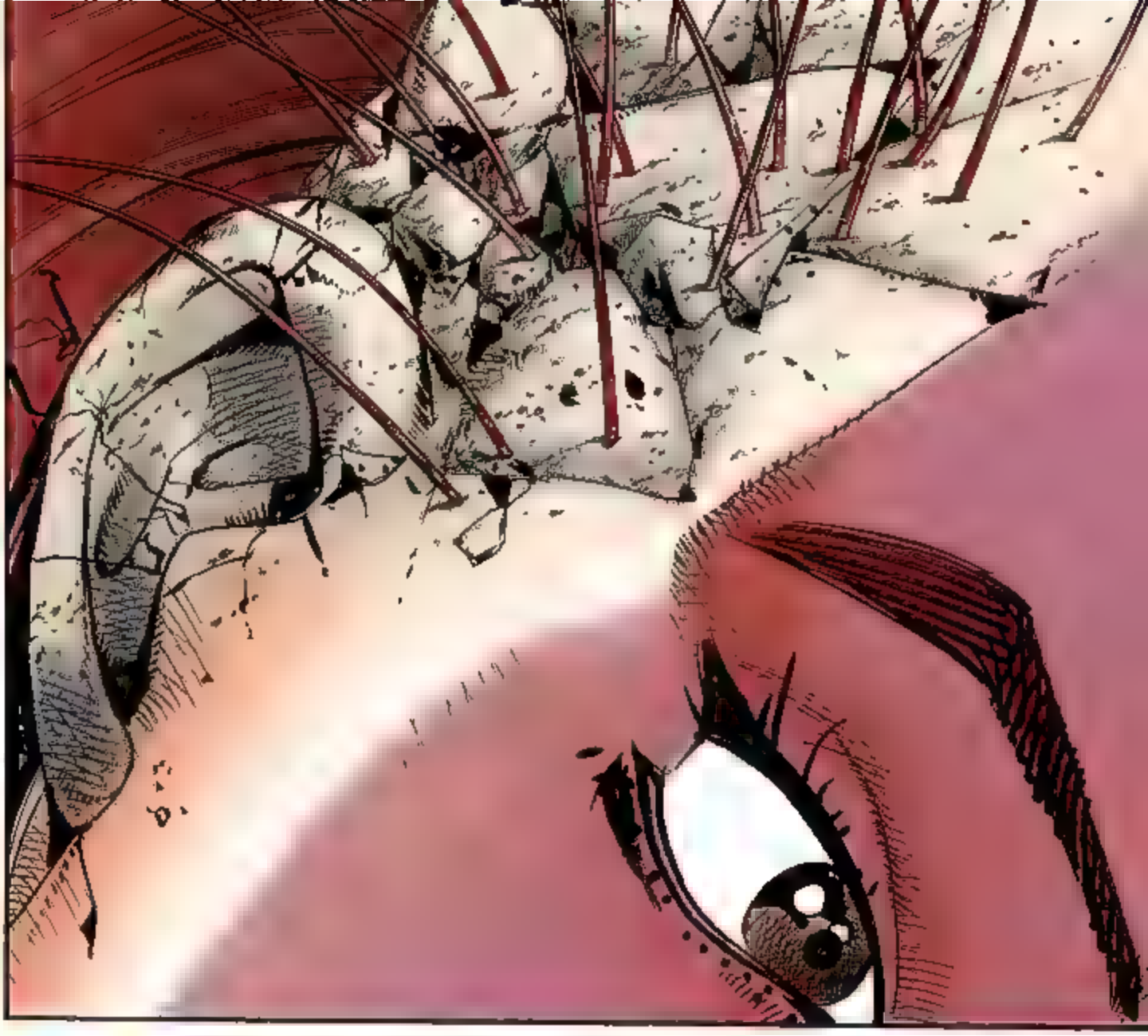

CRNCH
MNCH
MNCH
MNCH
CRNCH
MNCH

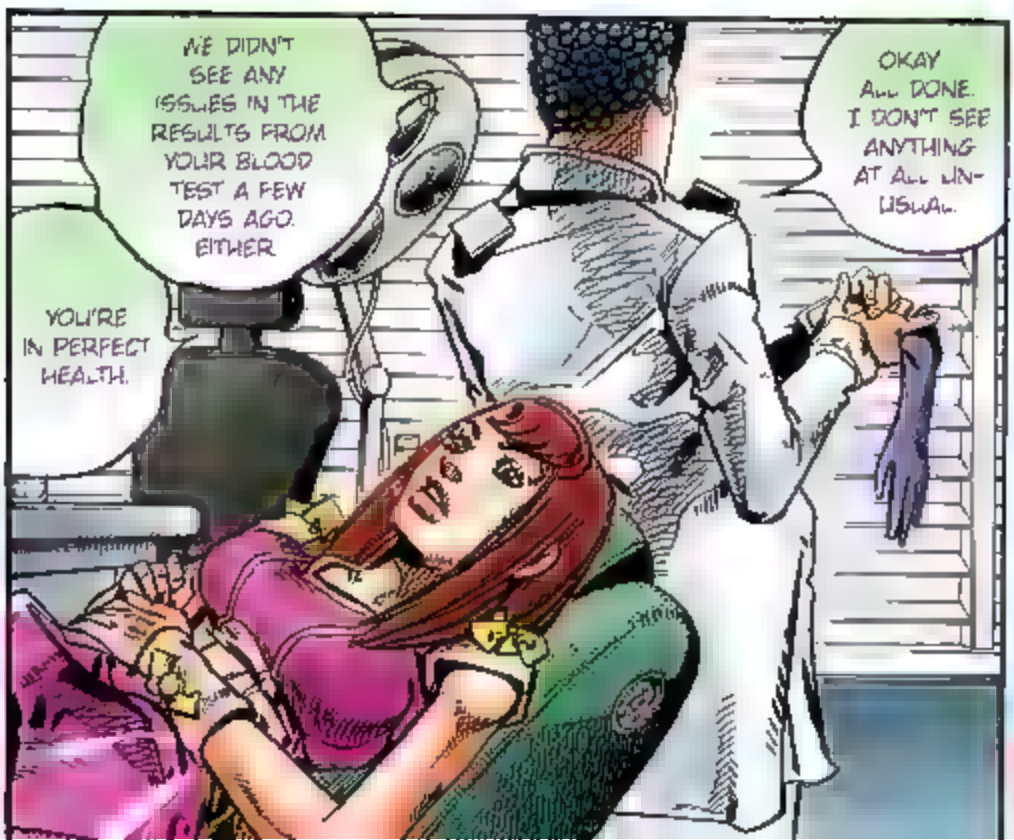

DOCTOR


I'M GOING TO TOUCH.
YOUR HAIR NOW...



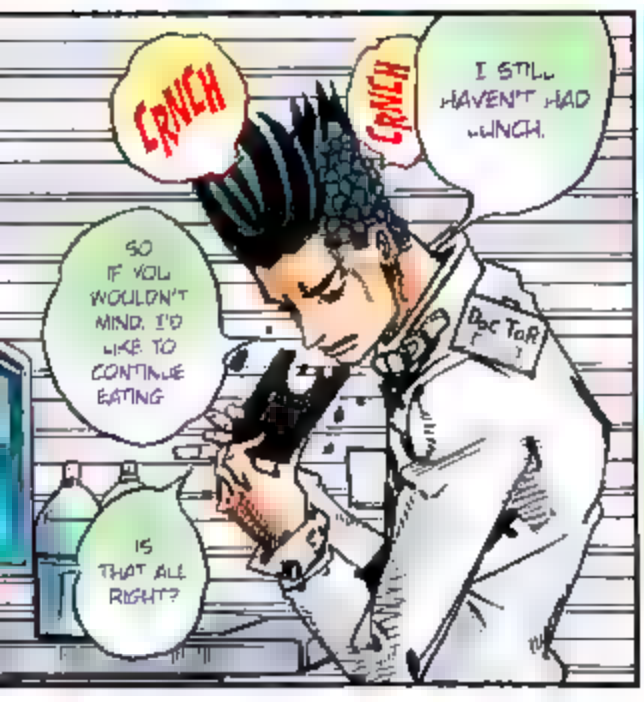
FUWAH

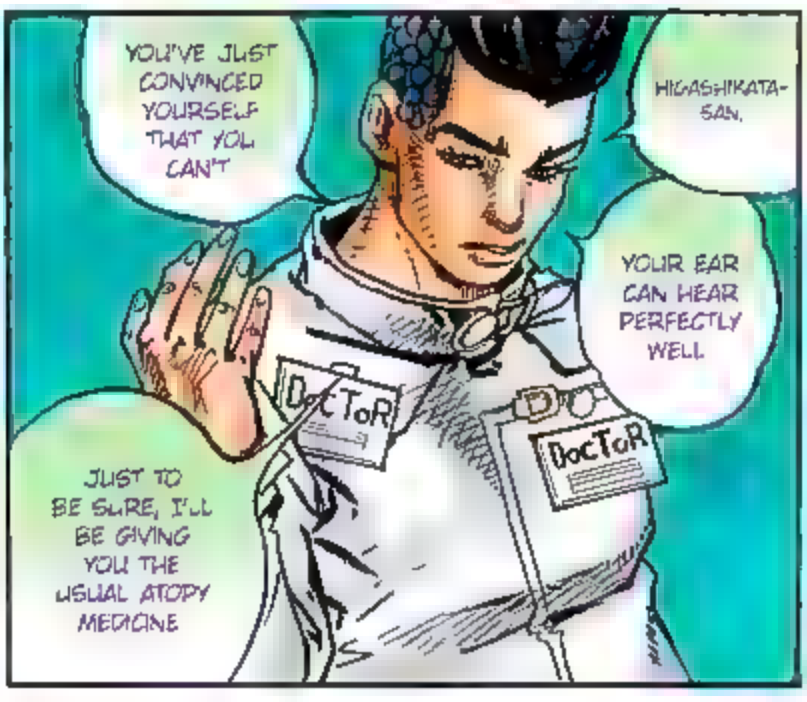


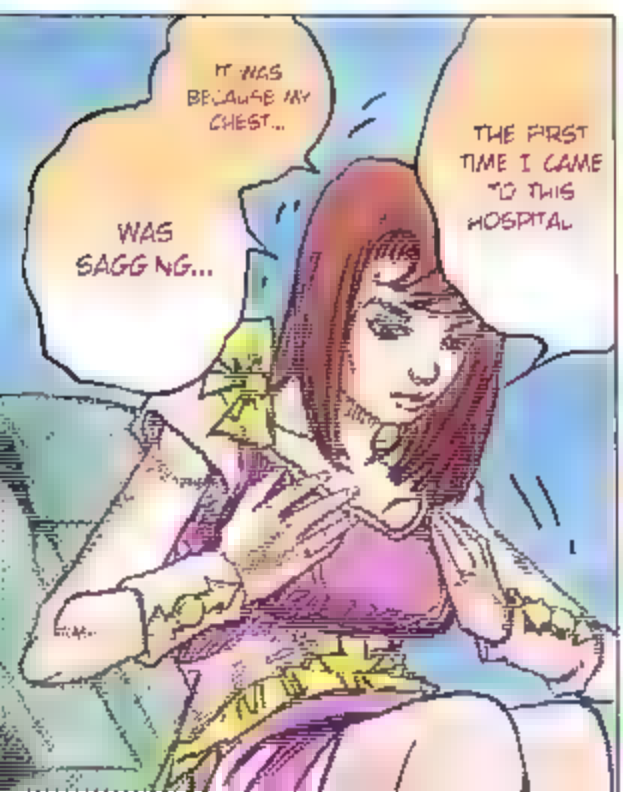

WE DIDN'T SEE ANY ISSUES IN THE RESULTS FROM YOUR BLOOD TEST A FEW DAYS AGO. EITHER
OKAY ALL DONE. I DON'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL UN-USUAL.
YOU'RE IN PERFECT HEALTH.

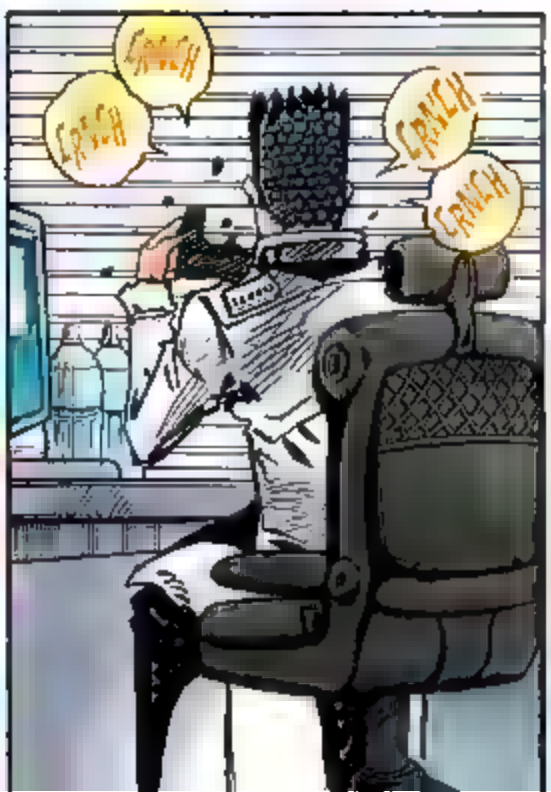
DOCTOR

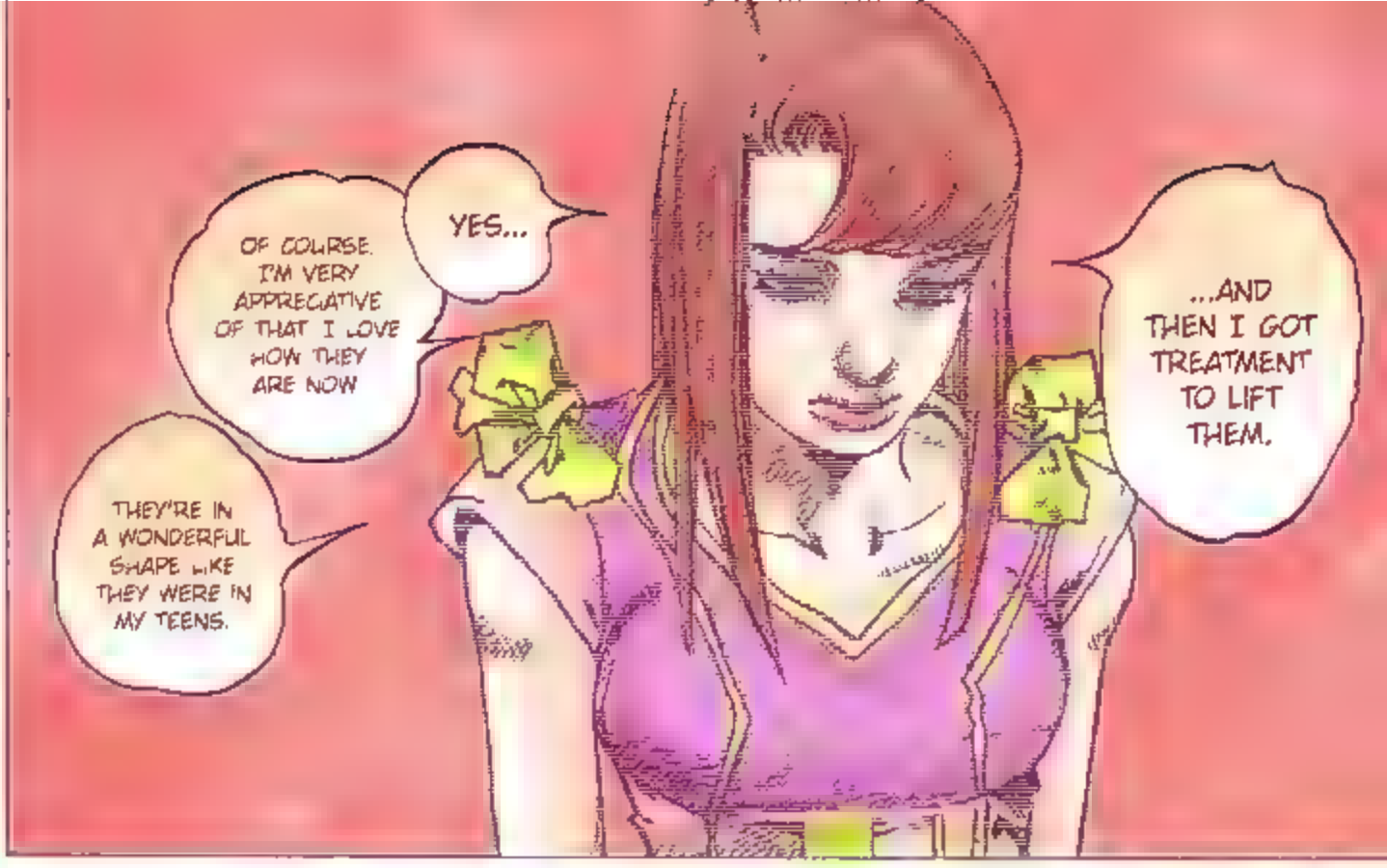
I CAN'T HEAR OUT OF MY RIGHT EAR AT ALL! AND THIS MORNING I HAD THESE AWFUL CONVULSIONS AND COLLAPSED UNCONSCIOUS!
HMMM!!
MUNCHH!

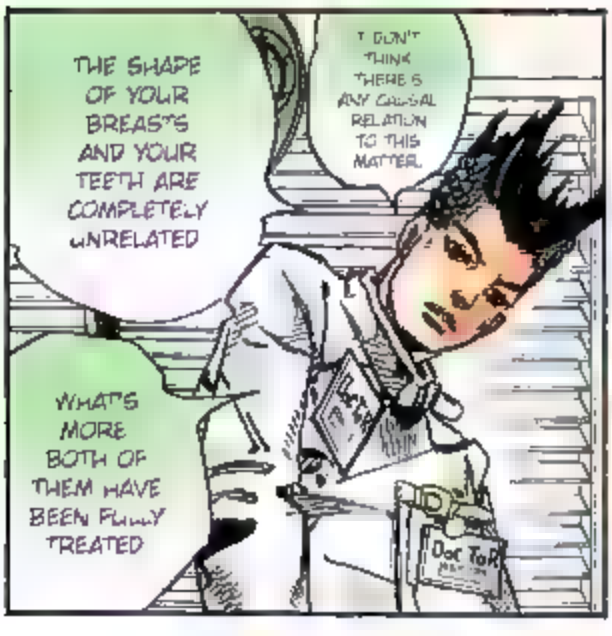

CRNCH
CRNCH
I STILL HAVEN'T HAD LUNCH.
SO IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE EATING
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
DOCTOR


YOU'VE JUST CONVINCED YOURSELF THAT YOU CAN'T
HIGASHIKATA-SAN.
YOUR EAR CAN HEAR PERFECTLY WELL
JUST TO BE SURE, I'LL BE GIVING YOU THE USUAL ATOPY MEDICINE
DOCTOR

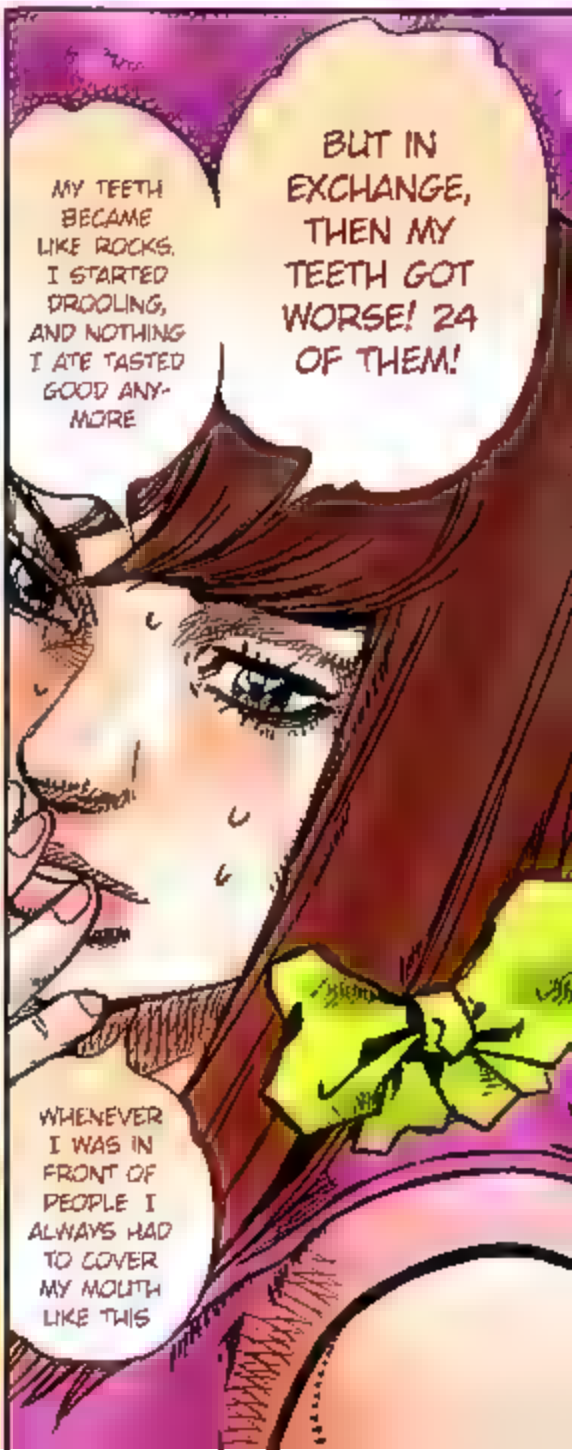

IT WAS BECAUSE MY CHEST...
WAS SAGGING...
THE FIRST TIME I CAME TO THIS HOSPITAL

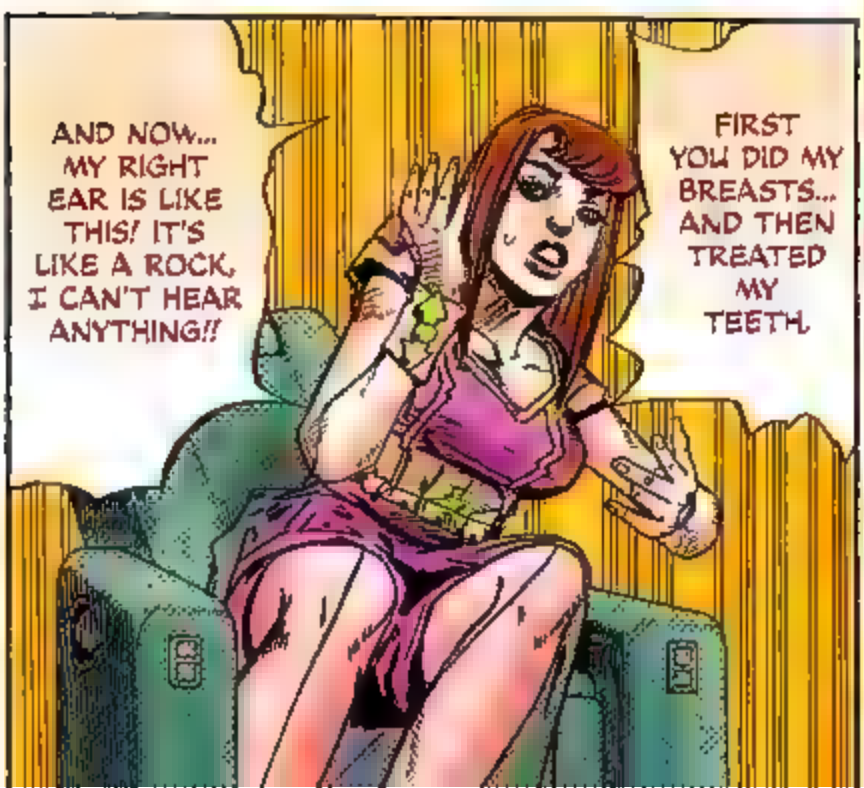

CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH

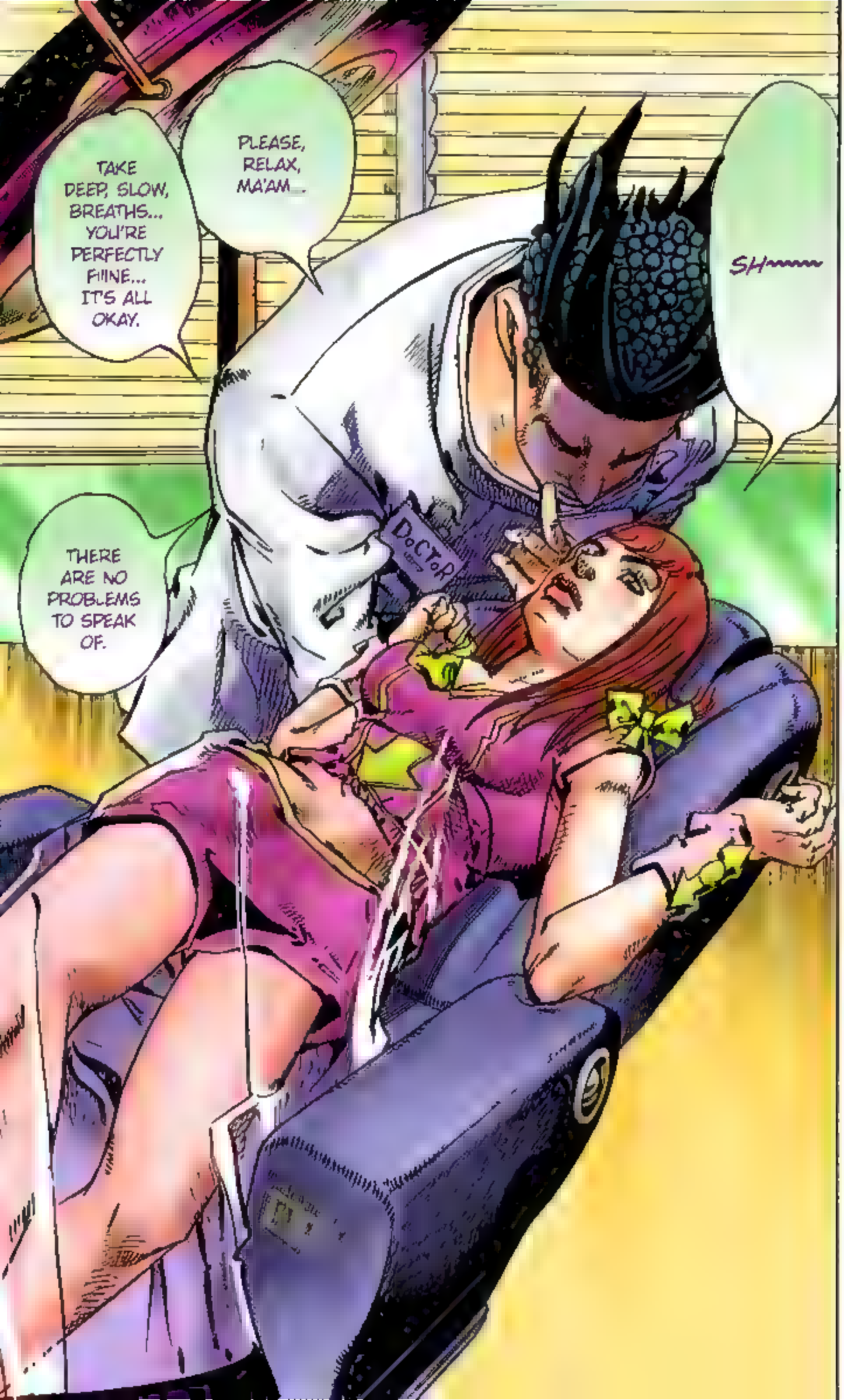

THEY'RE IN A WONDERFUL SHAPE LIKE THEY WERE IN MY TEENS.
OF COURSE. I'M VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THAT I LOVE HOW THEY ARE NOW
YES...
...AND THEN I GOT TREATMENT TO LIFT THEM.

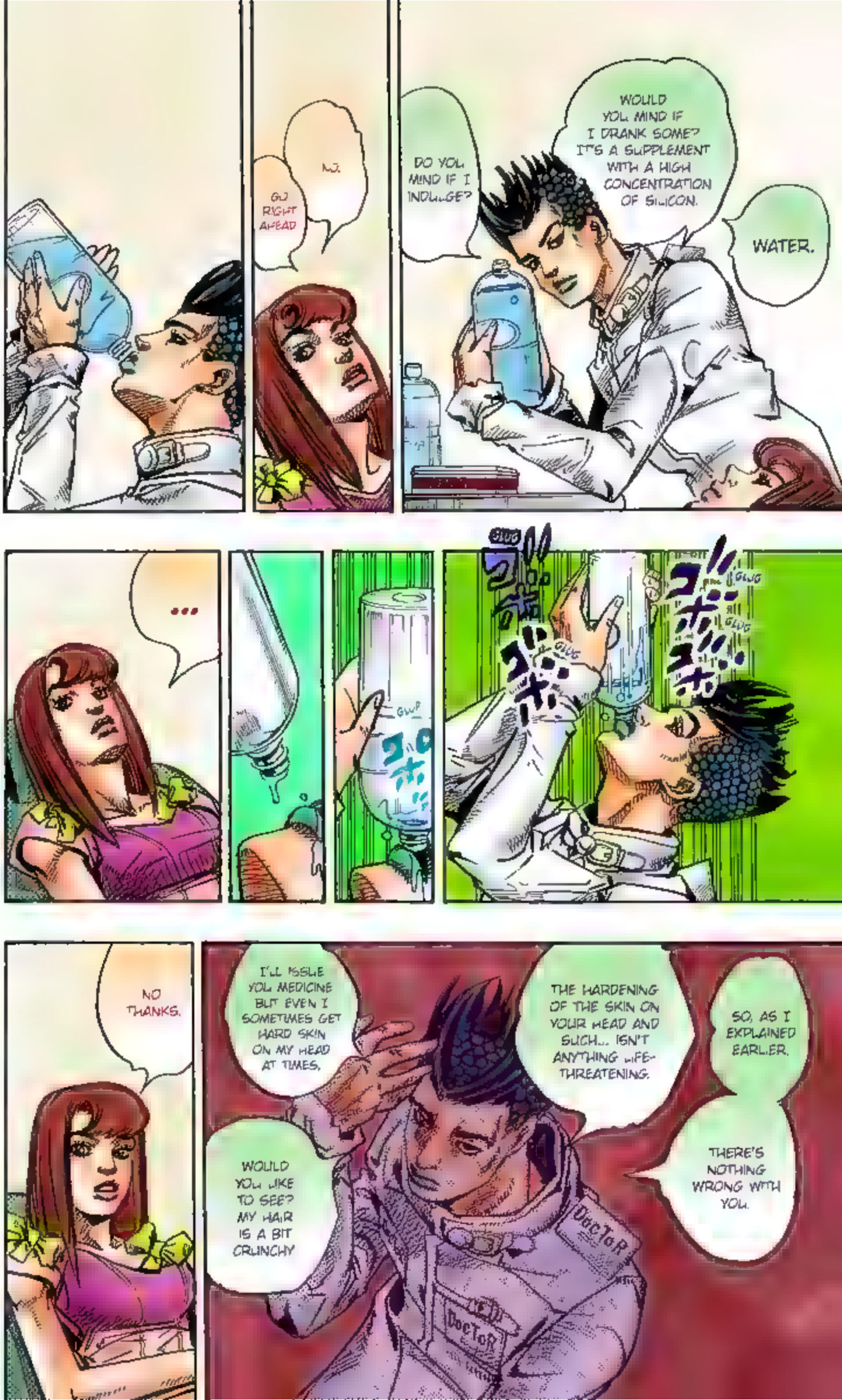

THE SHAPE OF YOUR BREASTS AND YOUR TEETH ARE COMPLETELY UNRELATED
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY CAUSAL RELATION TO THIS MATTER.
WHAT'S MORE BOTH OF THEM HAVE BEEN FULLY TREATED

HIGASHIKATA-SAN.


MY TEETH BECAME LIKE ROCKS. I STARTED DROOLING, AND NOTHING I ATE TASTED GOOD ANY-MORE
BUT IN EXCHANGE, THEN MY TEETH GOT WORSE! 24 OF THEM!
WHENEVER I WAS IN FRONT OF PEOPLE I ALWAYS HAD TO COVER MY MOUTH LIKE THIS


AND NOW... MY RIGHT EAR IS LIKE THIS! IT'S LIKE A ROCK. I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!!
FIRST YOU DID MY BREASTS... AND THEN TREATED MY TEETH.


TAKE DEEP, SLOW, BREATHS... YOU'RE PERFECTLY FIINE... IT'S ALL OKAY.
PLEASE, RELAX, MA'AM...
SHmmm
THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS TO SPEAK OF.
DOCTOR


MJ.
GO RIGHT AHEAD
DO YOU MIND IF I INDULGE?
WOULD YOU MIND IF I DRANK SOME? IT'S A SUPPLEMENT WITH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF SILICON.
WATER.
...
GLUG
GLUP
NO THANKS.
I'LL ISSUE YOU MEDICINE BUT EVEN I SOMETIMES GET HARD SKIN ON MY HEAD AT TIMES.
THE HARDENING OF THE SKIN ON YOUR HEAD AND SUCH... ISN'T ANYTHING LIFE-THREATENING.
SO, AS I EXPLAINED EARLIER.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE? MY HAIR IS A BIT CRUNCHY
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU.
DOCTOR
DOCTOR

THOUGH RECENTLY HE'S BEEN DOTING ON OUR TEN YEAR-OLD SON QUITE A BIT KEEPING HIM CLOSE.

SO WHEN HE GOES TO KISS ME, HE'LL BRING HIS ARM BEHIND MY EAR

AND MY CHILD WILL NOTICE THE SKIN UNDER MY HAIR!

I'VE KEPT IT A SECRET FROM MY HUSBAND THAT THIS HOSPITAL GAVE ME SUCH SHAPELY BREASTS.

I DO LET MY HUSBAND TOUCH THEM,

BUT HE HASN'T NOTICED THEM IN THAT WAY.

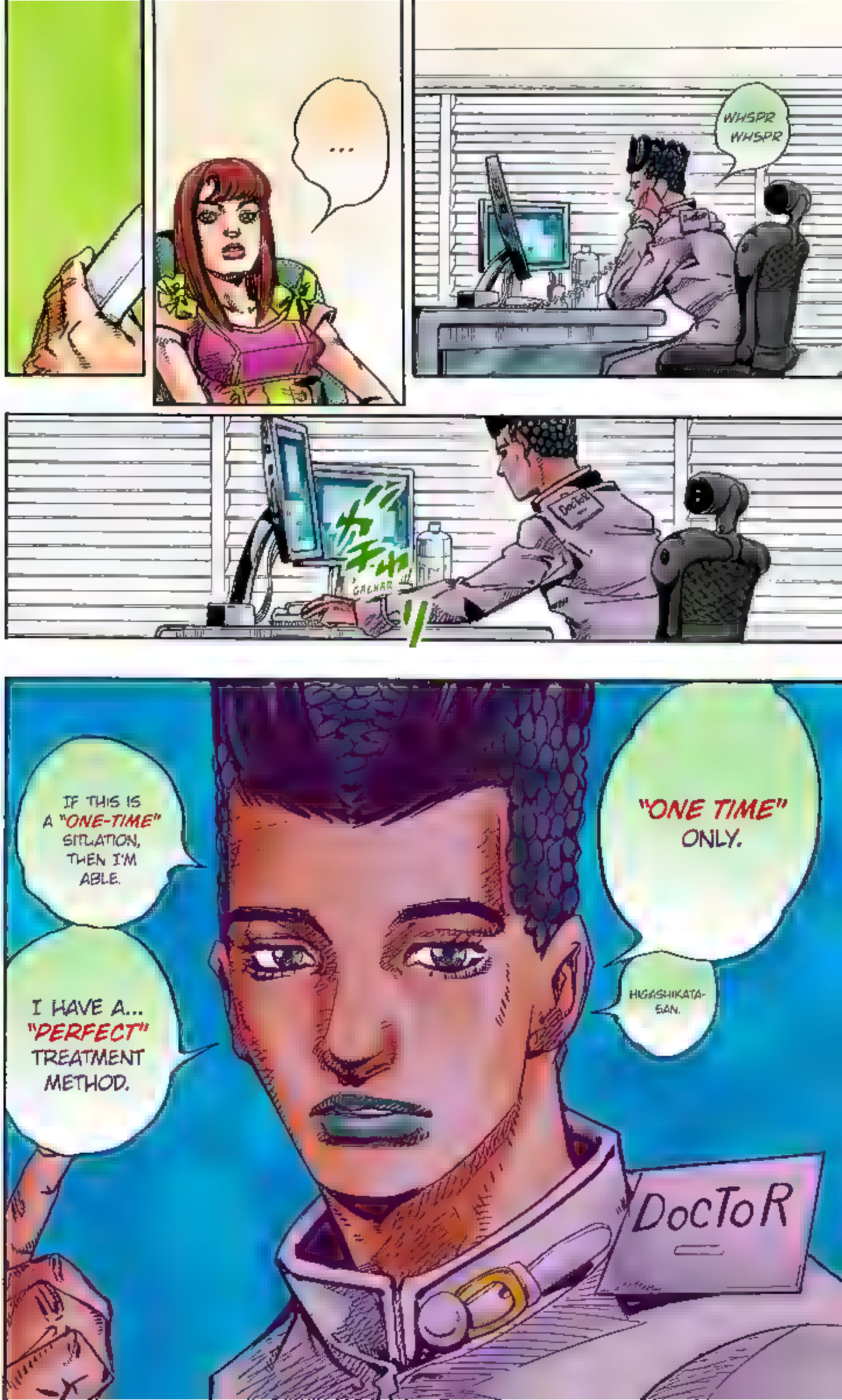
HE DIDN'T NOTICE WHEN MY TEETH WERE LIKE ROCKS EITHER.

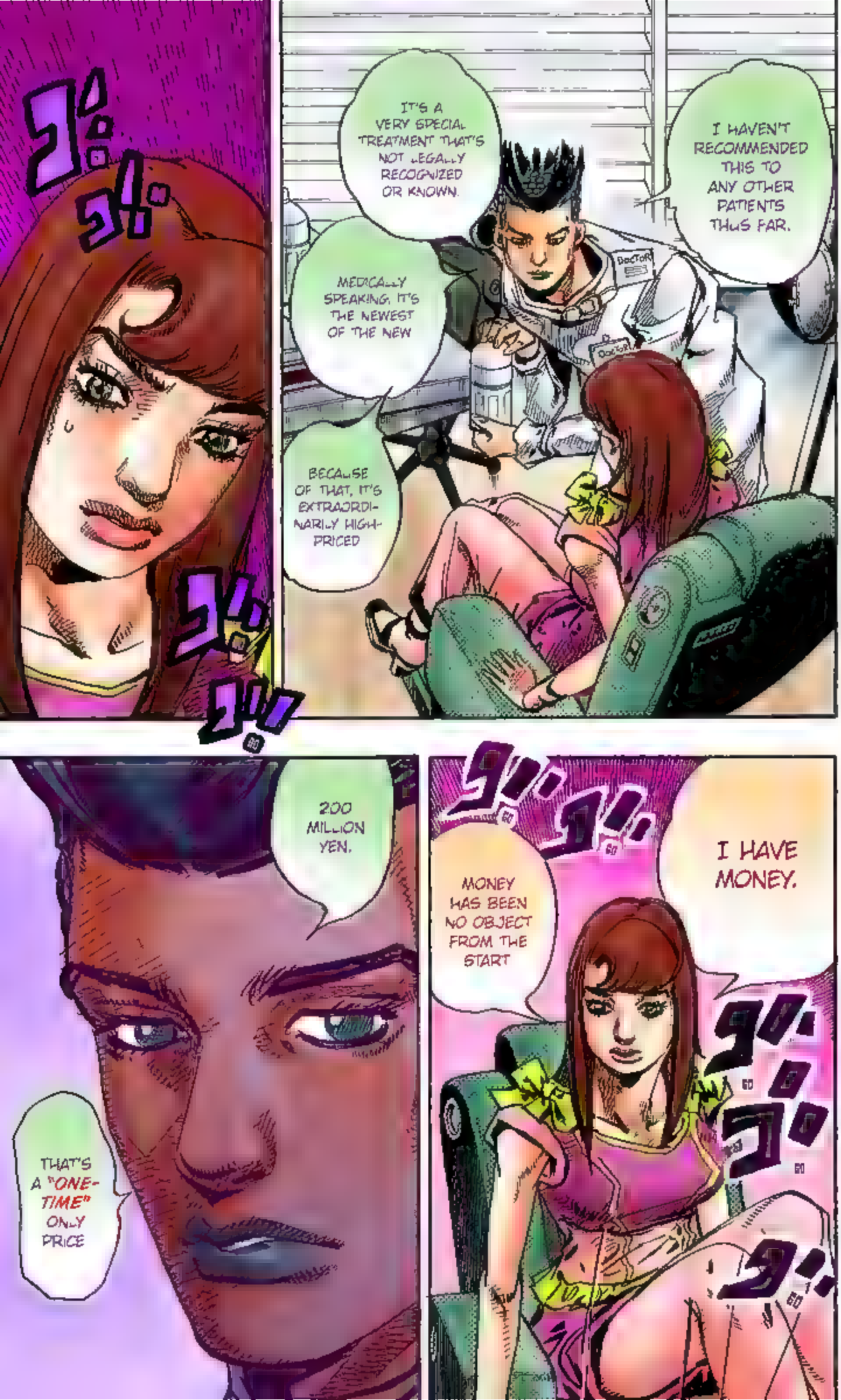
I WANT TO LOOK PERFECT! PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!

PLEASE DOCTOR.

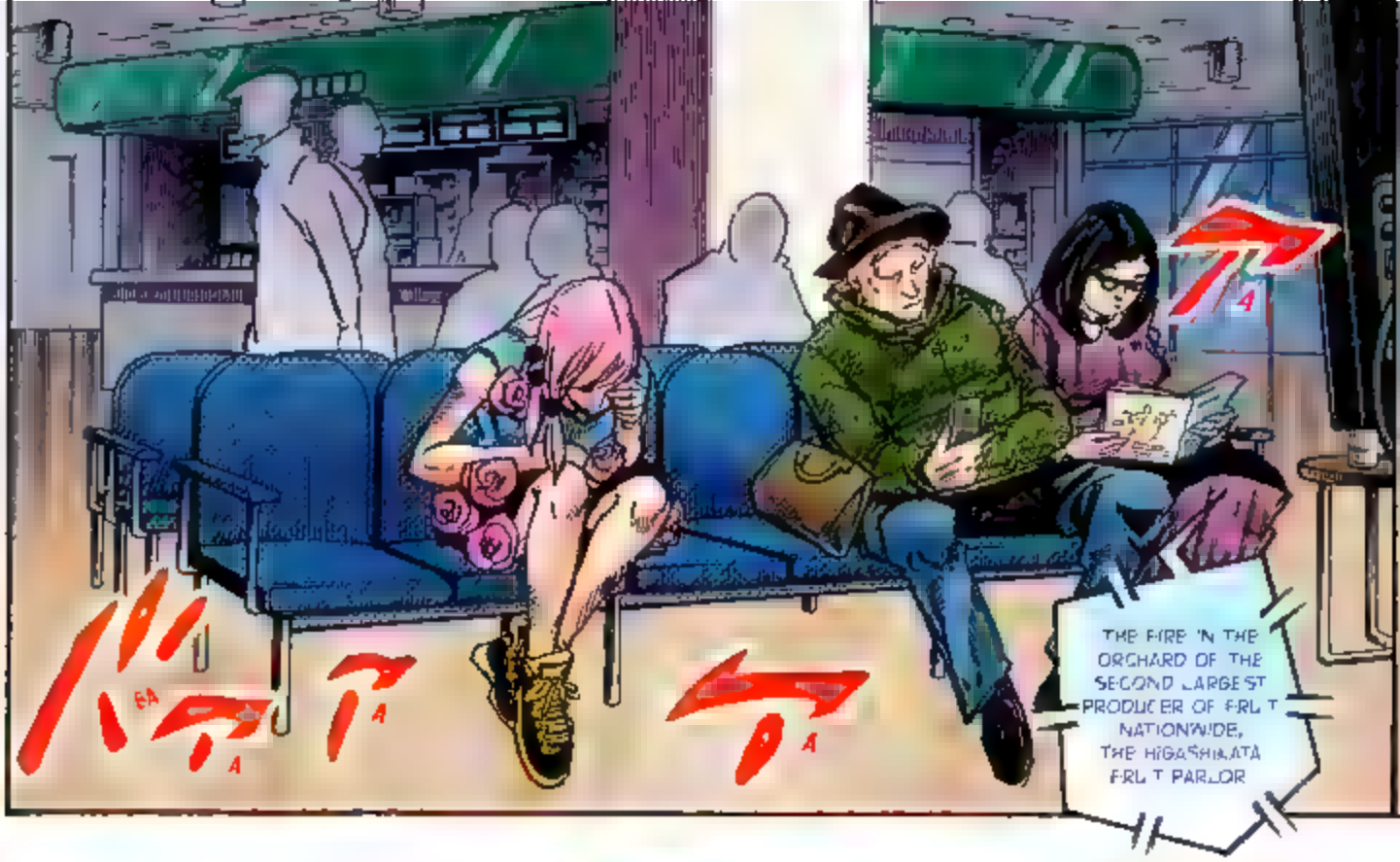
WHEN A CHILD NOTICES SOMETHING, THEY ALWAYS ASK 'WHY'!

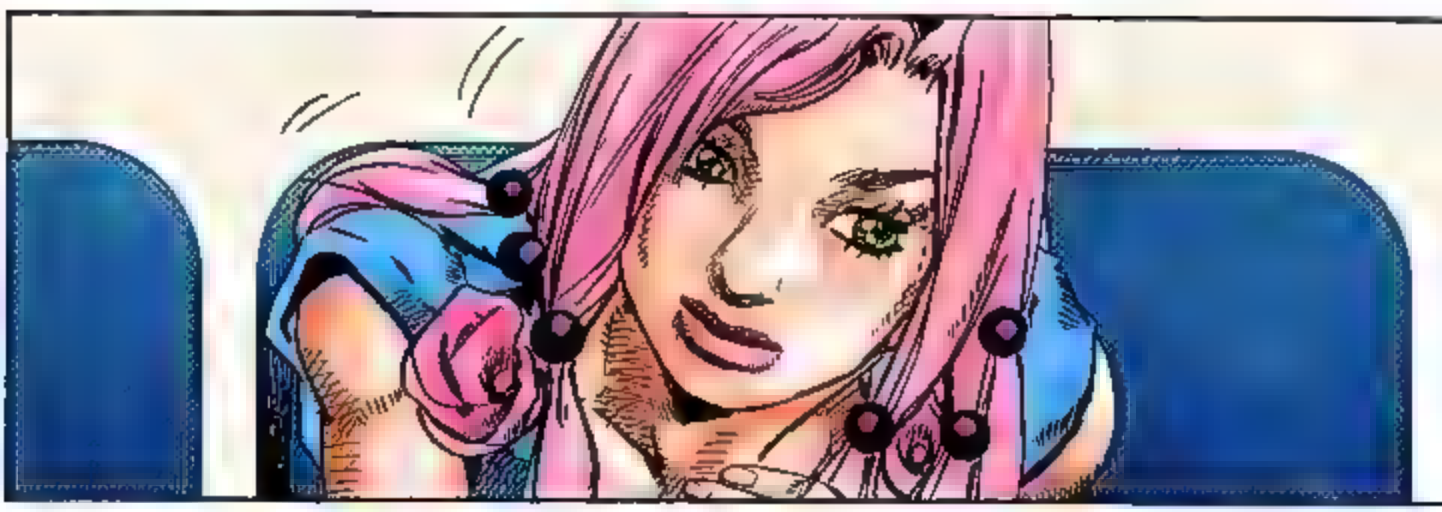
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO GOOD AT TREATING ME.


...
WHSPR WHSPR
DOCTOR
GALKAR
IF THIS IS A "ONE-TIME" SITUATION, THEN I'M ABLE.
I HAVE A... "PERFECT" TREATMENT METHOD.
"ONE TIME" ONLY.
HIGASHIKATA-SAN.
DOCTOR

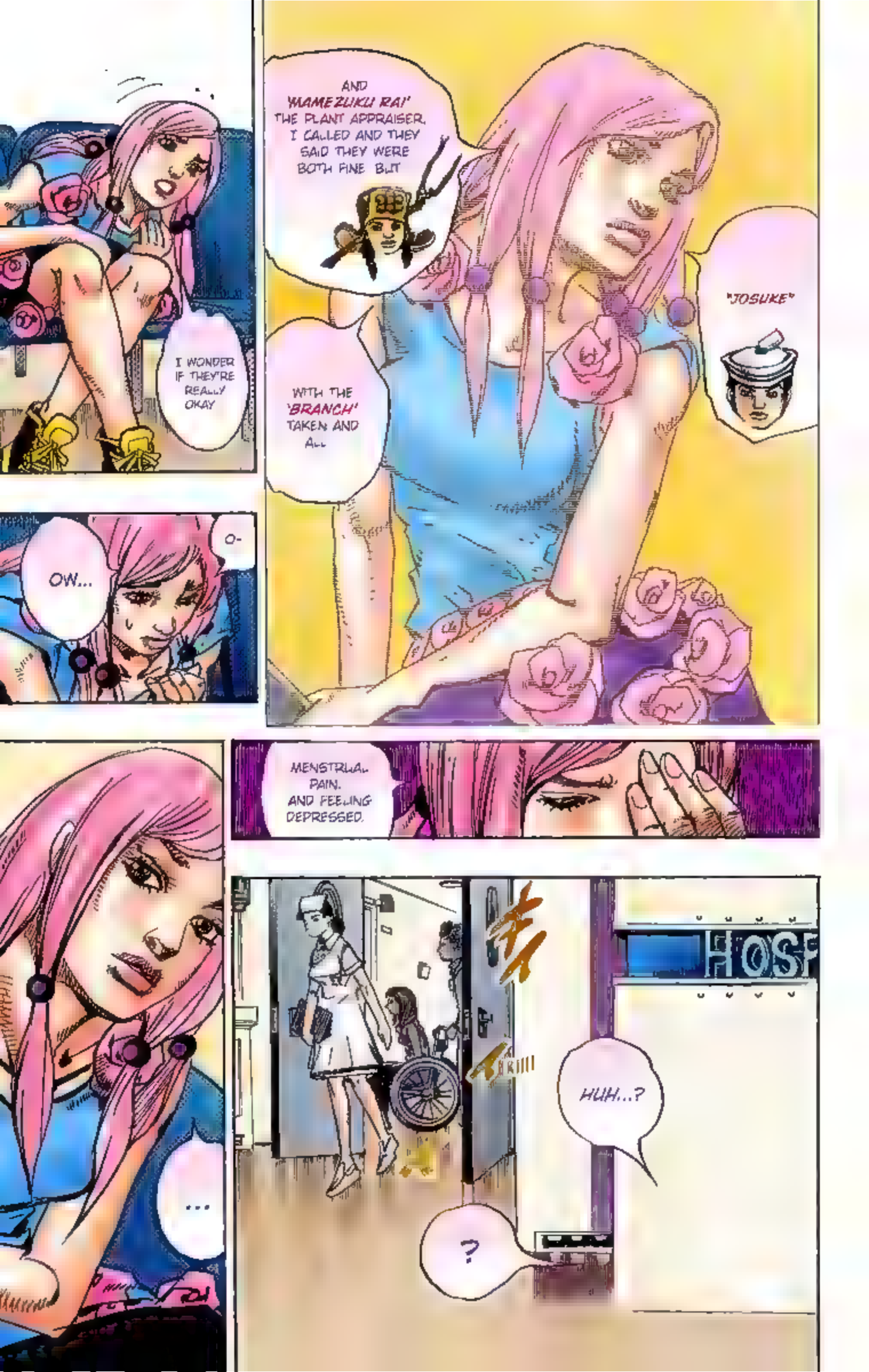

IT'S A VERY SPECIAL TREATMENT THAT'S NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED OR KNOWN.
I HAVEN'T RECOMMENDED THIS TO ANY OTHER PATIENTS THUS FAR.
MEDICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S THE NEWEST OF THE NEW
BECAUSE OF THAT, IT'S EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH-PRICED
DOCTOR
DOCTOR
200 MILLION YEN.
THAT'S A "ONE-TIME" ONLY PRICE
I HAVE MONEY.
MONEY HAS BEEN NO OBJECT FROM THE START

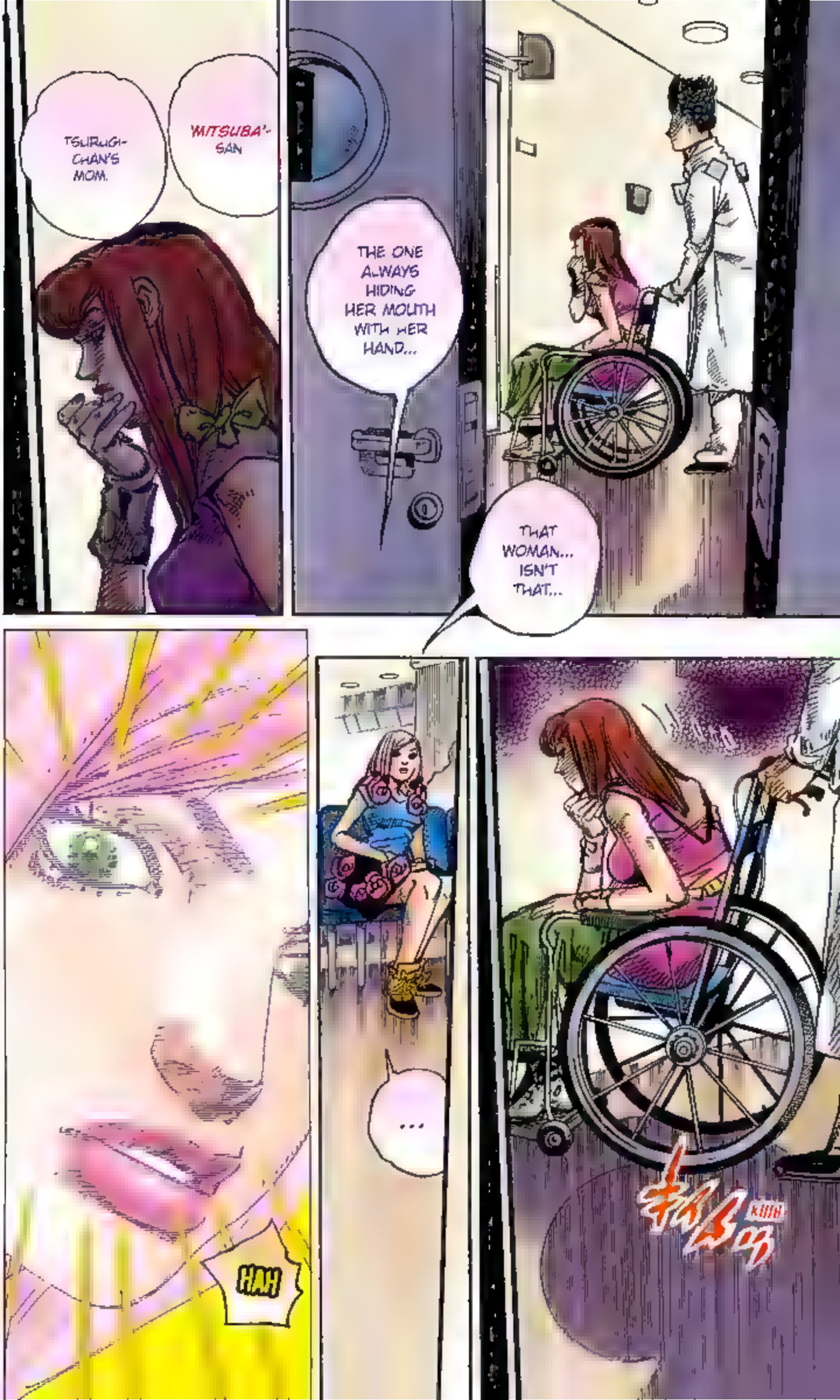
THIS IS YOUR DECISION TO MAKE. THE TREATMENT CAN BEGIN AS SOON AS YOU HAVE PAID.
YOU ARE IN HEALTHY CONDITON.
Orchard Fire
600 High-Priced Fruit Trees Decimated
The Higashikata Fruit Parlor's
land of over 16,500 square meters
ゴゴゴ
Orchard Fire
JUST.. TO MAKE THINGS PERFECTLY CLEAR, HIGASHI-KATA-SAN.
...
..."200 MILLION YEN".
AND...
YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN "PERFECTLY" CURE THIS ROCK-LIKE SKIN?
DOCTOR
DOCTOR


THE FIRE IN THE ORCHARD OF THE SECOND LARGEST PRODUCER OF FRUIT NATIONWIDE, THE HIGASHIBATA FRUIT PARLOR



...
ONLY SPREAD WITHIN THE ESTATE GROUNDS, AND SO IT WAS EXTINGUISHED LAST NIGHT. HOWEVER, WHAT CAUSED THE OUTBREAK OF THE FIRE IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.

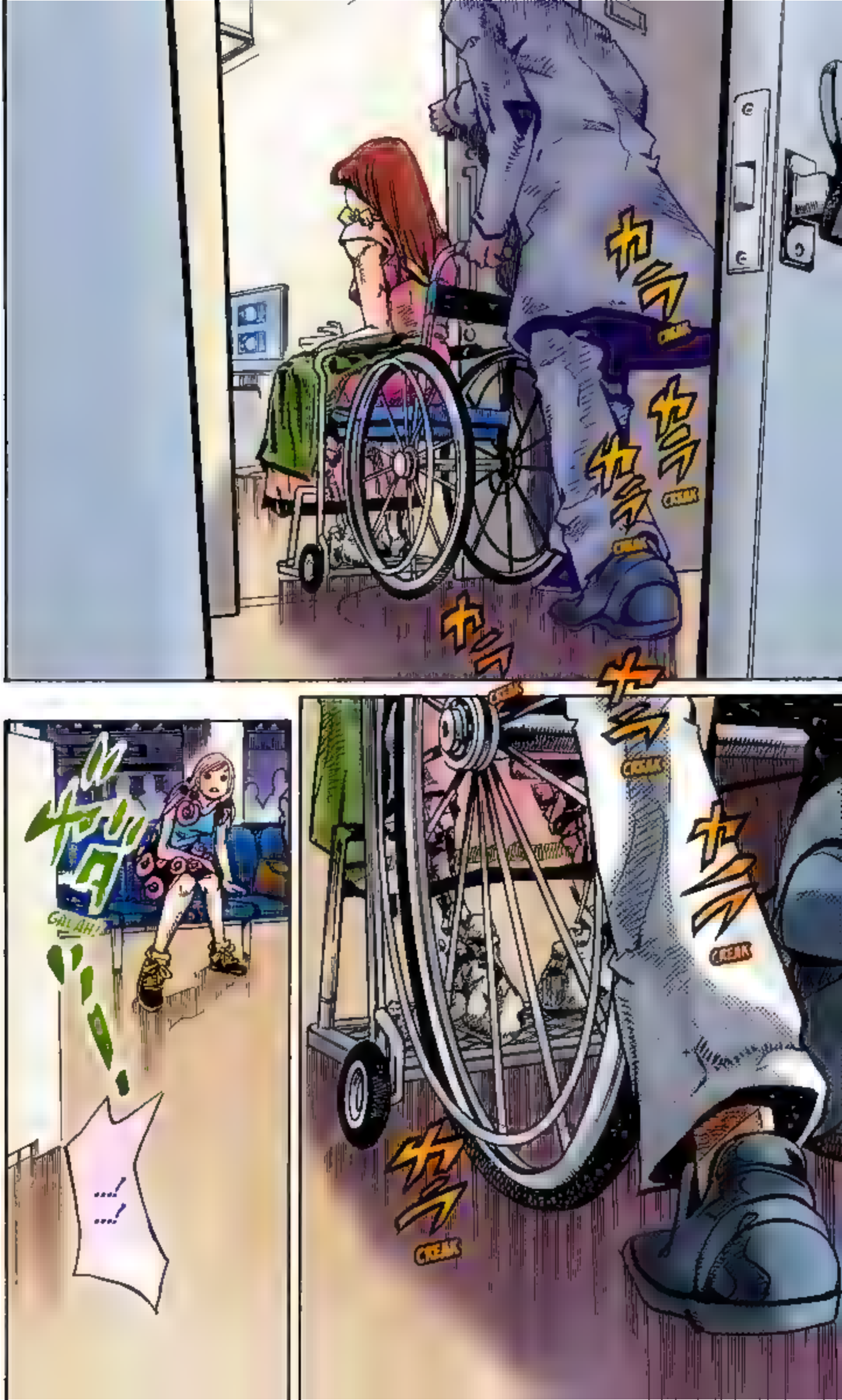

I WONDER IF THEY'RE REALLY OKAY
AND 'HAMEZUKU RAI' THE PLANT APPRAISER. I CALLED AND THEY SAID THEY WERE BOTH FINE BUT
"JOSUKE"
WITH THE 'BRANCH' TAKEN AND ALL
O-
OW...
MENSTRUAL PAIN. AND FEELING DEPRESSED.
...
HOSP
KRIIII
HUH...?
?

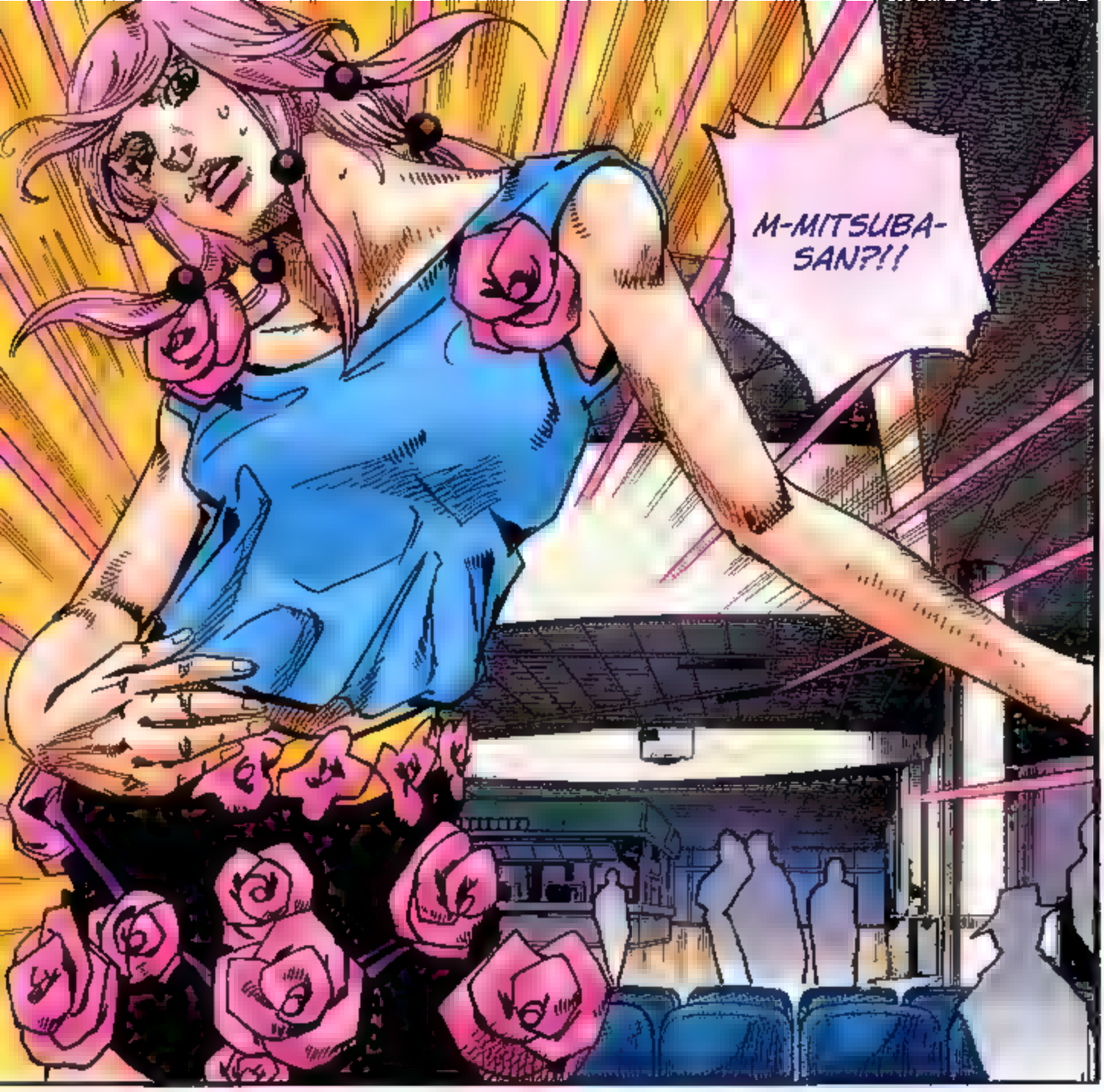

TSURUGI-CHAN'S MOM.
MITSUBA'-SAN
THE ONE ALWAYS HIDING HER MOUTH WITH HER HAND...
THAT WOMAN... ISN'T THAT...
...
HAH

Time Until the Harvest of the Locacaca Fruit

10 Days, 19 hours, and 6 minutes

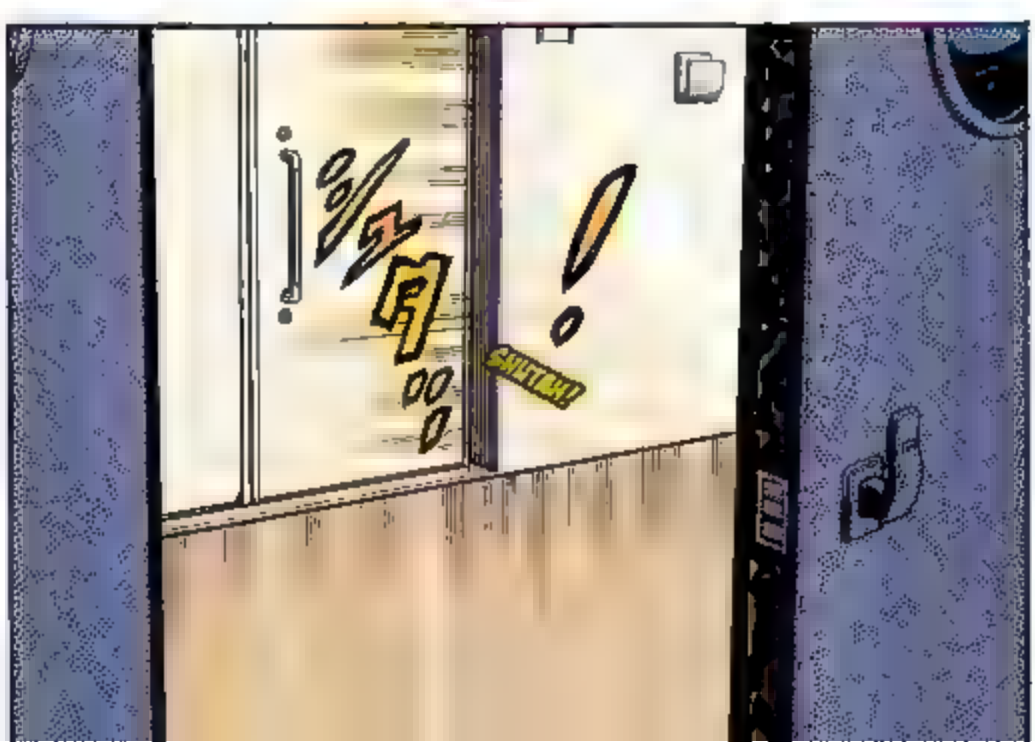
#078 THE ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON - WU TOMOKI-SENSEI

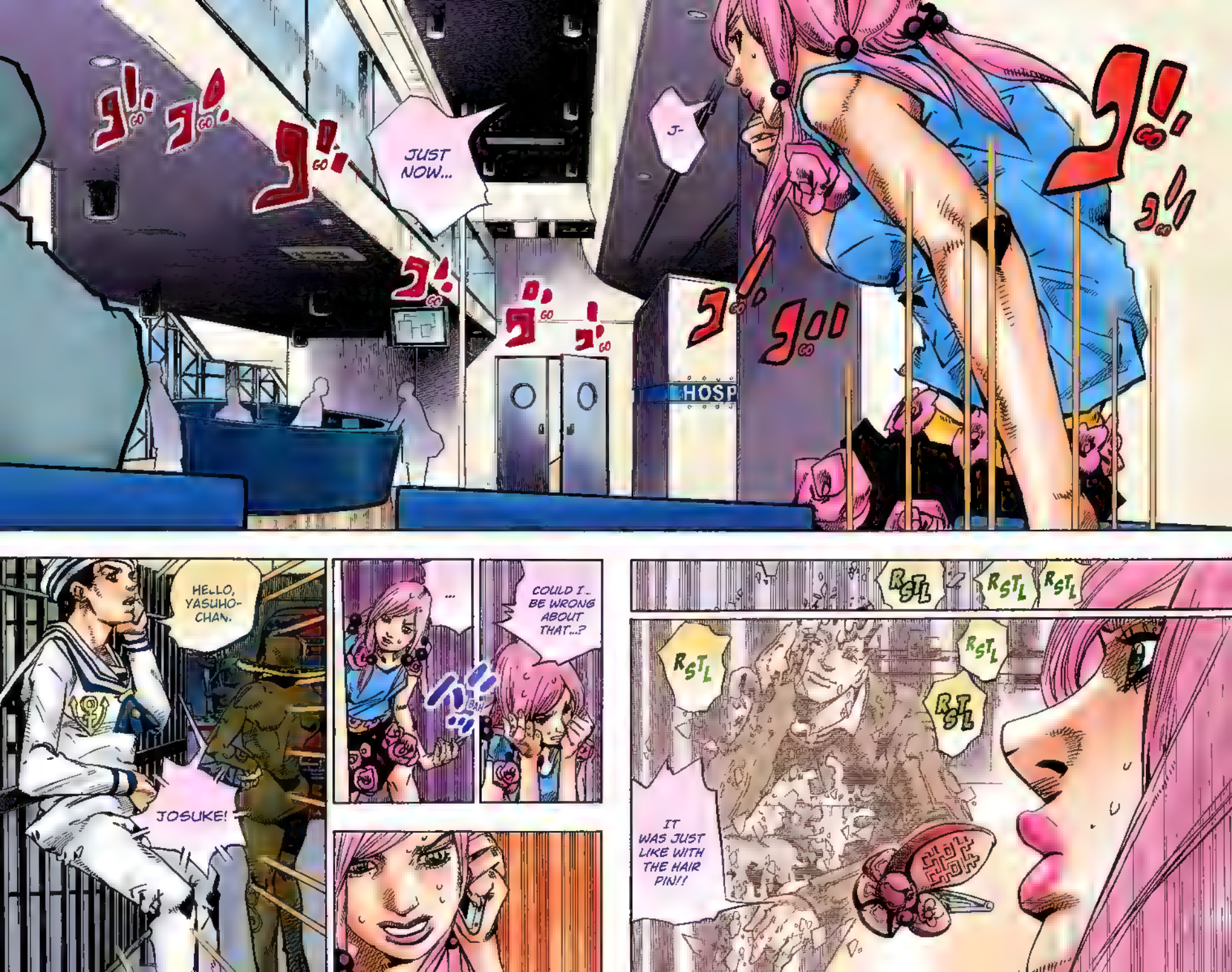

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
GAH AH!
...!
...!


M-MITSUBA-SAN?!!

Orthopedic Surgery

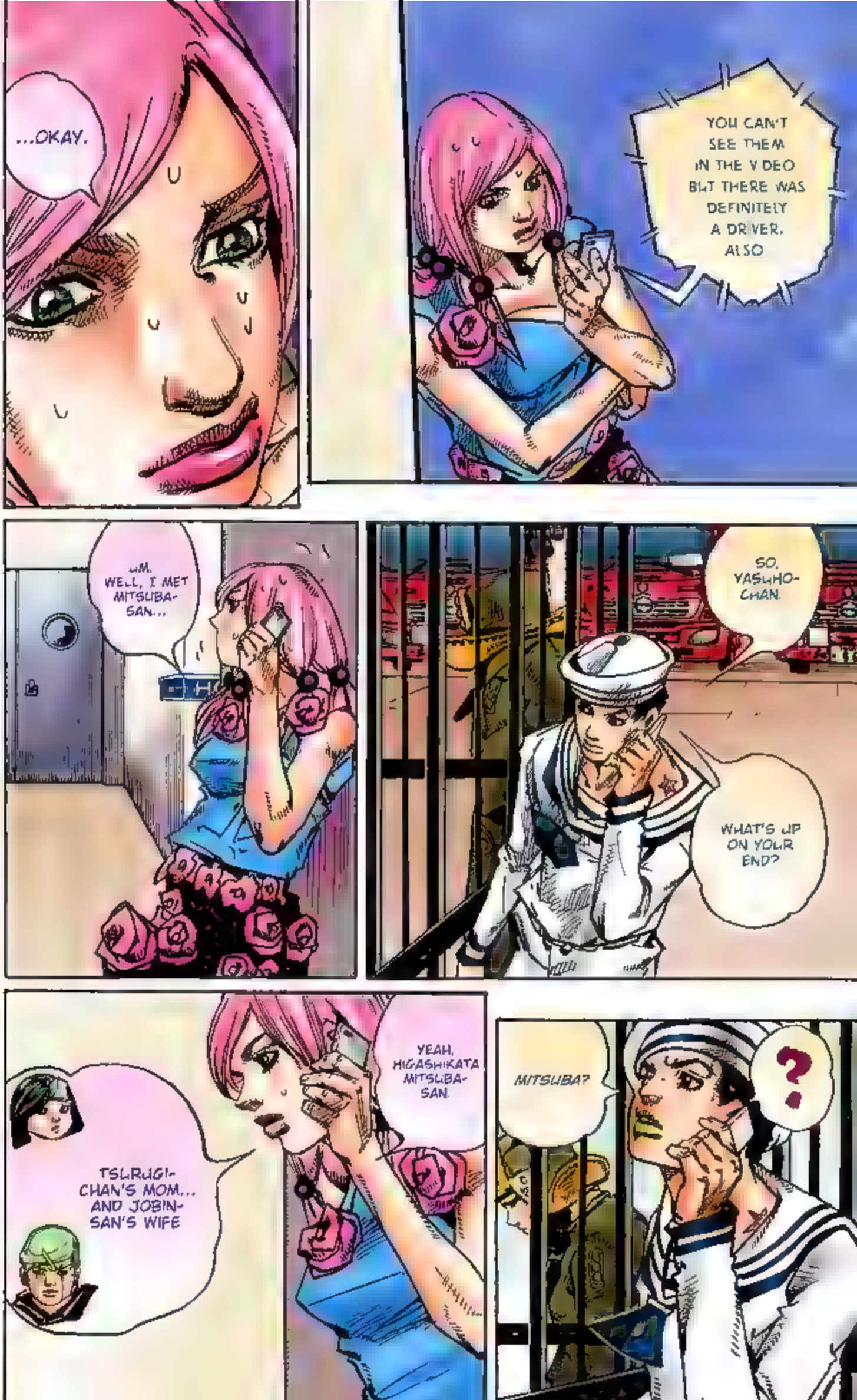
CREAK
CREAK


SHUTTER!

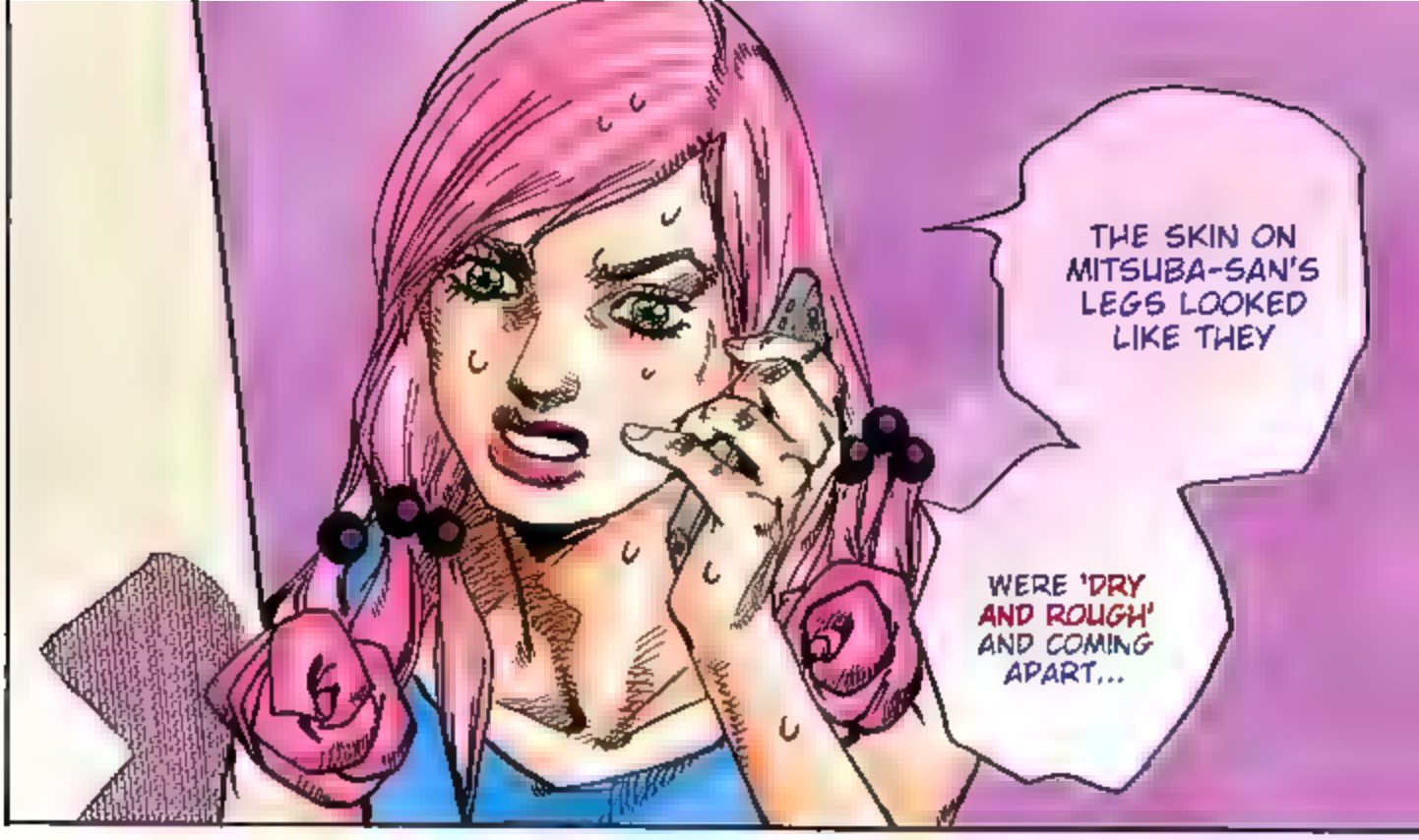

JUST NOW...
J-
HOSP
HELLO, YASUHO-CHAN.
JOSUKE!
...
COULD I... BE WRONG ABOUT THAT...?
RSTL
IT WAS JUST LIKE WITH THE HAIR PIN!!

DID YOU SAY FIRE STATION?
MAMEZUKU-SAN AND I ARE AT THE LONE PINE FIRE STATION.
WE'RE INVESTIGATING THE AMBULANCE THAT WAS AT THE FIRE
3-11
LICENSE PLATE '3-11'.
I'M CERTAIN THAT'S WHAT I SAW ON THE AMBULANCE BACK THEN.
IN FACT, THERE'S NO AMBULANCE WITH A LICENSE PLATE NUMBER 3-11 HERE AT ALL.
THERE ARE NO RECORDS OF AMBULANCE WORKERS HERE EITHER.
BUT THERE'S NO RECORD OF A 3-11 AMBULANCE GOING ANYWHERE
DURING THE TIME THE HIGASHIKATA ORCHARD WAS ON FIRE.

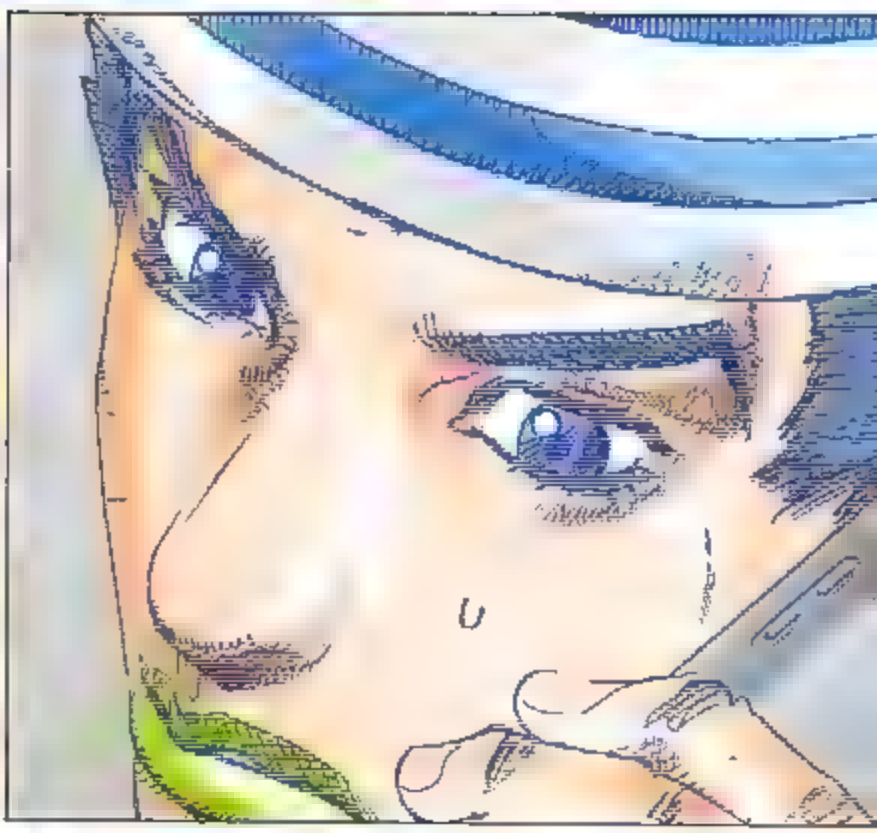
AND THEY TOOK THE 'ROKAKAKA BRANCH'.
IT'S JUST SOME "AMBULANCE" THAT SHOWED UP FROM SOMEWHERE
THERE WERE LOTS OF SECURITY CAMERAS IN THE ORCHARD.
SO I'M SENDING YOU A VIDEO WE GOT FROM THEM
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK
THIS IS THE 'ENEMY' WE'RE LOOKING FOR
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO

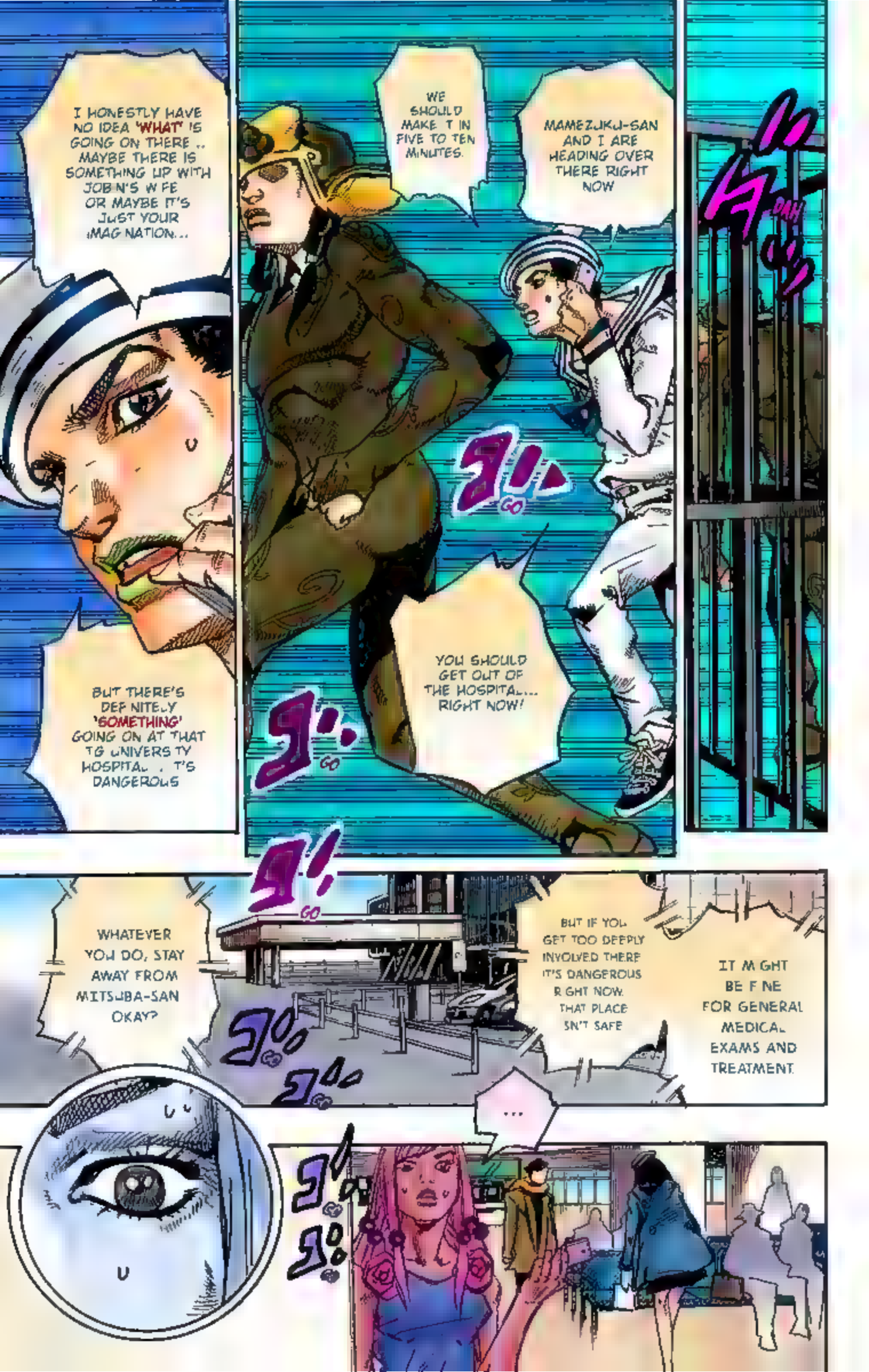

...OKAY.
YOU CAN'T SEE THEM IN THE VIDEO BUT THERE WAS DEFINITELY A DRIVER. ALSO
UM. WELL, I MET MITSUBA-SAN...
SO, YASUHO-CHAN.
WHAT'S UP ON YOUR END?
YEAH, HIGASHIKATA MITSUBA-SAN.
TSURUGI-CHAN'S MOM... AND JOBIN-SAN'S WIFE
MITSUBA?
?

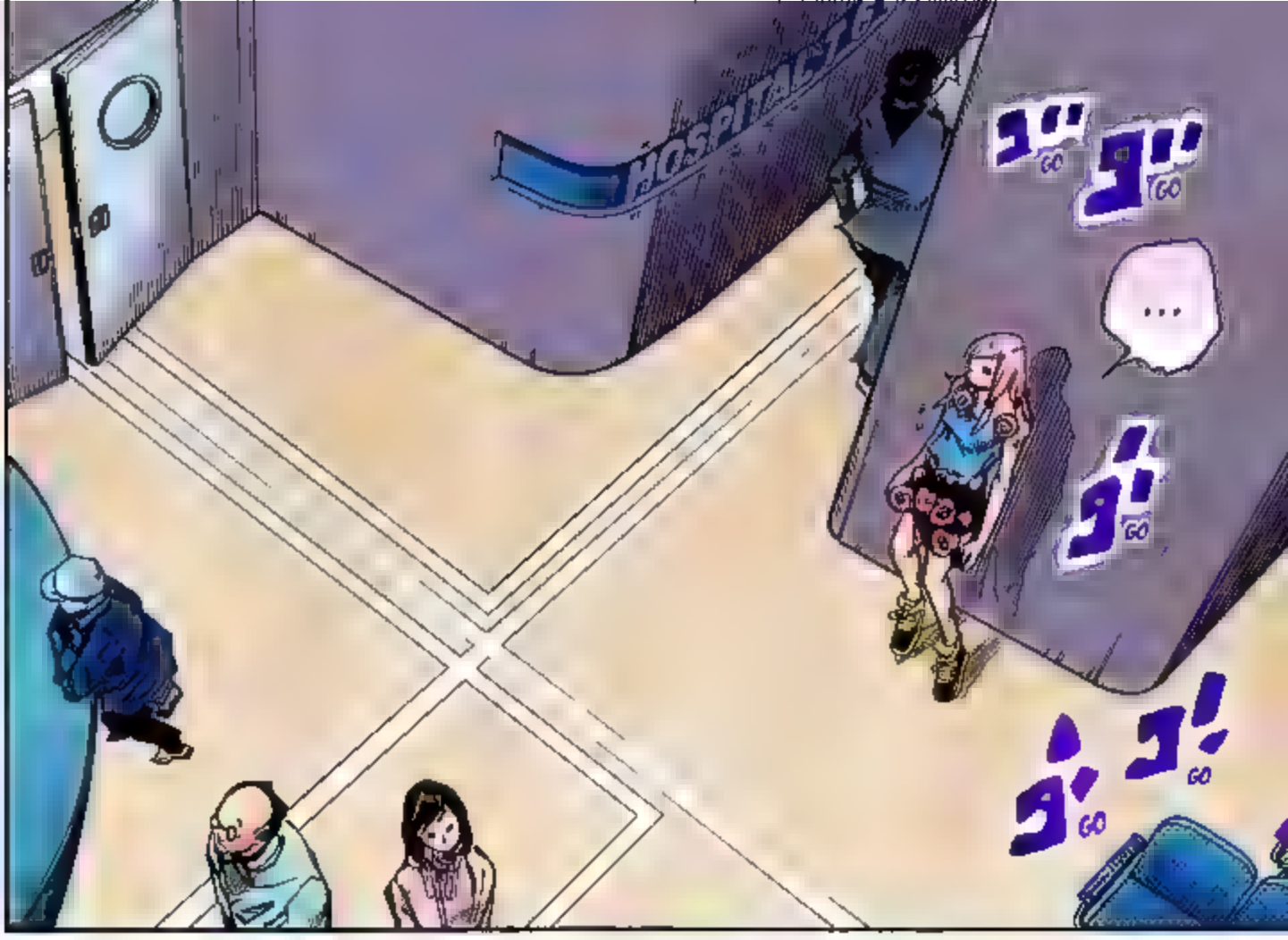
I SAW MITSUBA-SAN BEING PUSHED IN A WHEEL-CHAIR JUST NOW.
I'M AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW...
OH, RIGHT
I SAW HER THIS MORNING
BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SPOKEN TO OR INTERACTED WITH HER IN THE HOUSE MUCH AT ALL
UM...
A WHEEL-CHAIR?
I JUST SAW IT FOR A QUICK SECOND FROM FAR AWAY
THROUGH THE GAP IN AN OPEN DOOR, BUT...
MITSUBA-SAN'S KNEES WERE COVERED IN A BLANKET WHEN SHE WAS IN THAT WHEELCHAIR
SOMETHING SEEMED "ODD" ABOUT MITSUBA-SAN'S LEGS UNDER THAT BLANKET
AND IT MIGHT'VE JUST BEEN BECAUSE OF THE LIGHTING BUT.
?
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

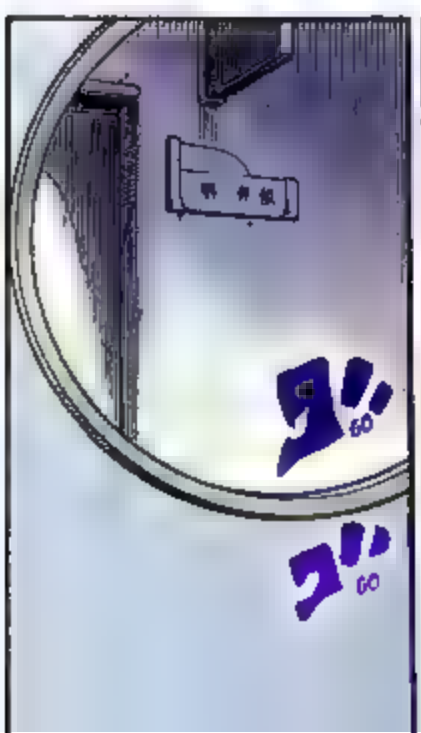

THE SKIN ON MITSUBA-SAN'S LEGS LOOKED LIKE THEY
WERE 'DRY AND ROUGH' AND COMING APART...

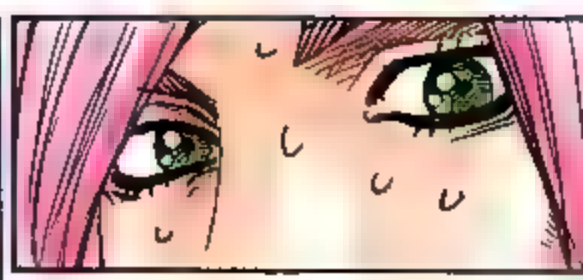
JO-SUKE. .
WARN HER.
YASUHO-CHAN .!!
PLEASE LISTEN CLOSELY !

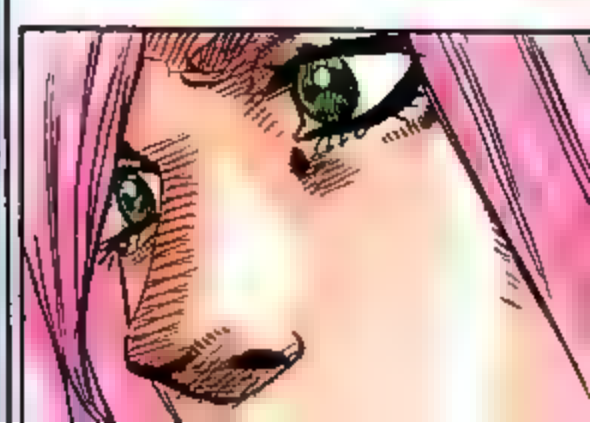



I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA 'WHAT' IS GOING ON THERE .. MAYBE THERE IS SOMETHING UP WITH JOBIN'S WIFE OR MAYBE IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION...
BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY 'SOMETHING' GOING ON AT THAT TG UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL . IT'S DANGEROUS
WE SHOULD MAKE IT IN FIVE TO TEN MINUTES.
MAMEZUKU-SAN AND I ARE HEADING OVER THERE RIGHT NOW
YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL... RIGHT NOW!
DAH
GO
GO
GO
WHATEVER YOU DO, STAY AWAY FROM MITSUBA-SAN OKAY?
BUT IF YOU GET TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED THERE IT'S DANGEROUS RIGHT NOW. THAT PLACE ISN'T SAFE
IT MIGHT BE FINE FOR GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMS AND TREATMENT.
GO
GO
GO
...


HOSPITAL
...

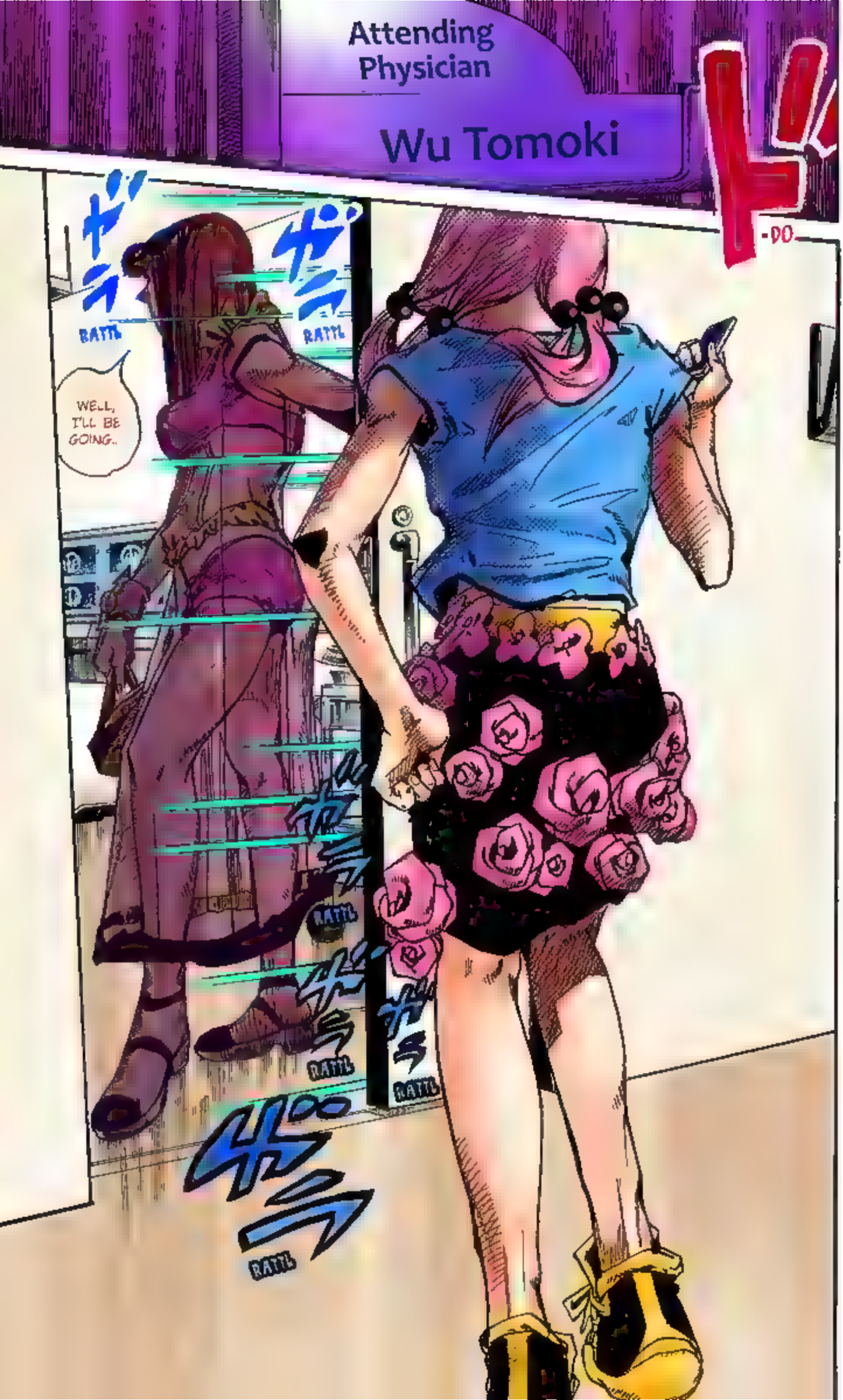


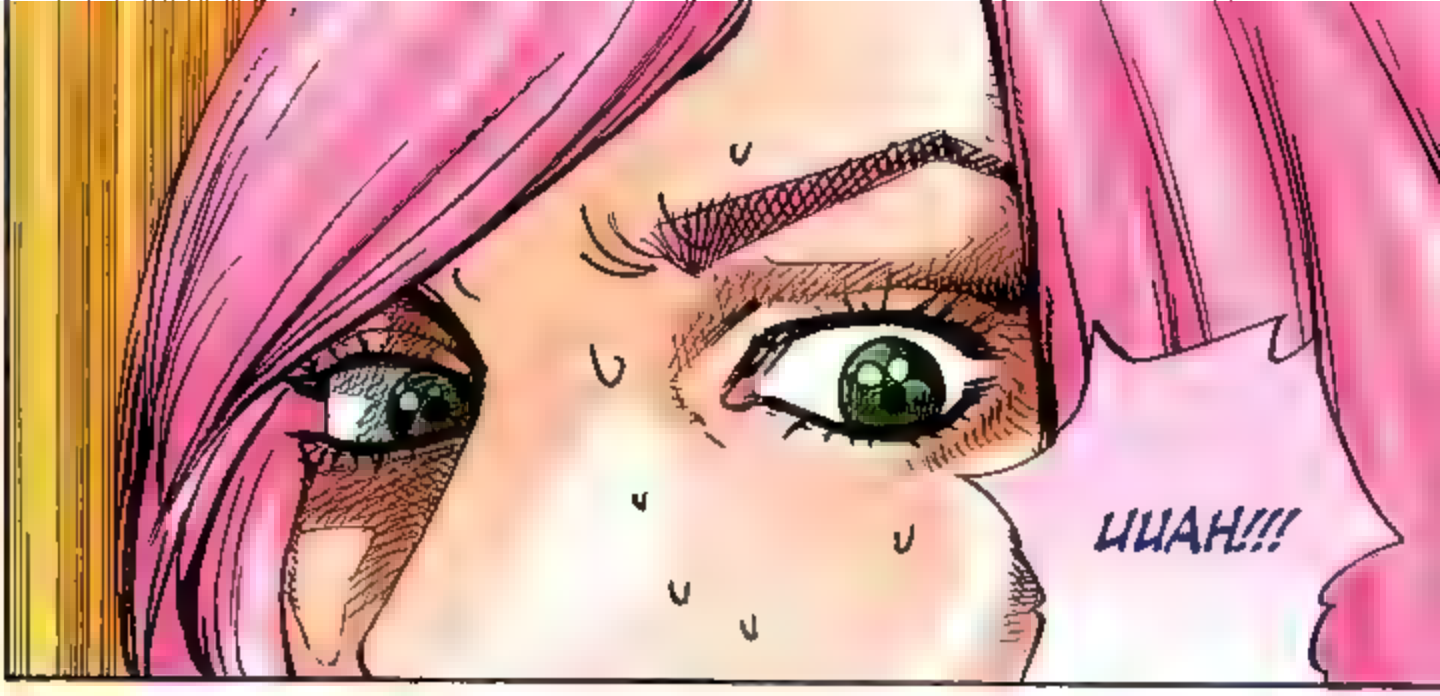




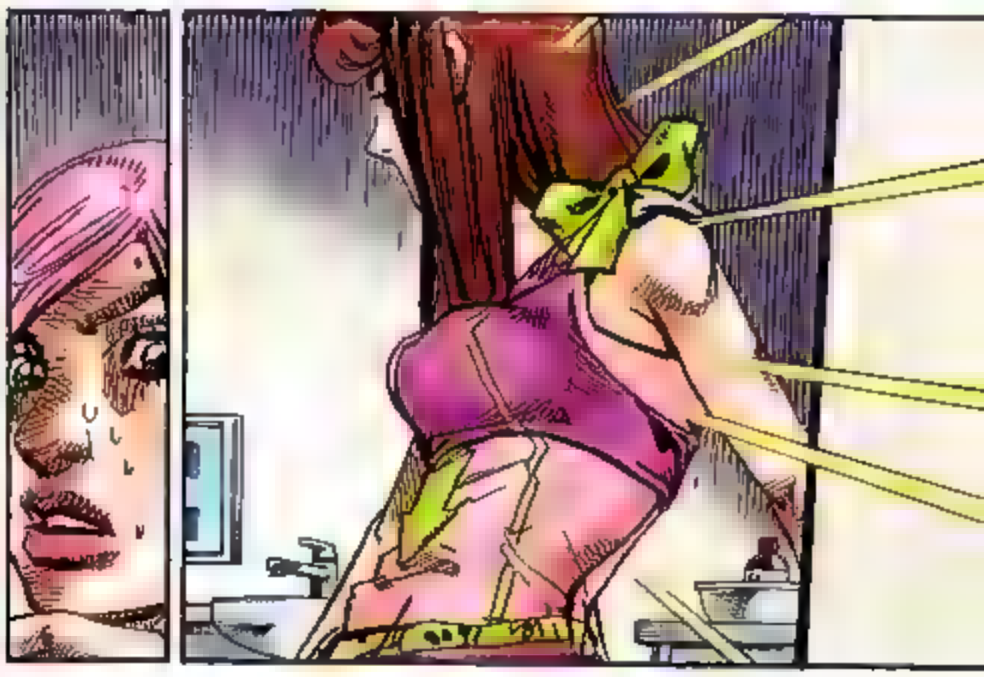
Attending Physician
Wu Tomoki
GIH
ZHM
Wu Tomoki
Name: Wu Tomoki, Born, 1978
Specialties: Orthopedic Surgery,
Aesthetic Dermatology
Short Personal History: TG Universi
Medical Department Graduate
AH!!

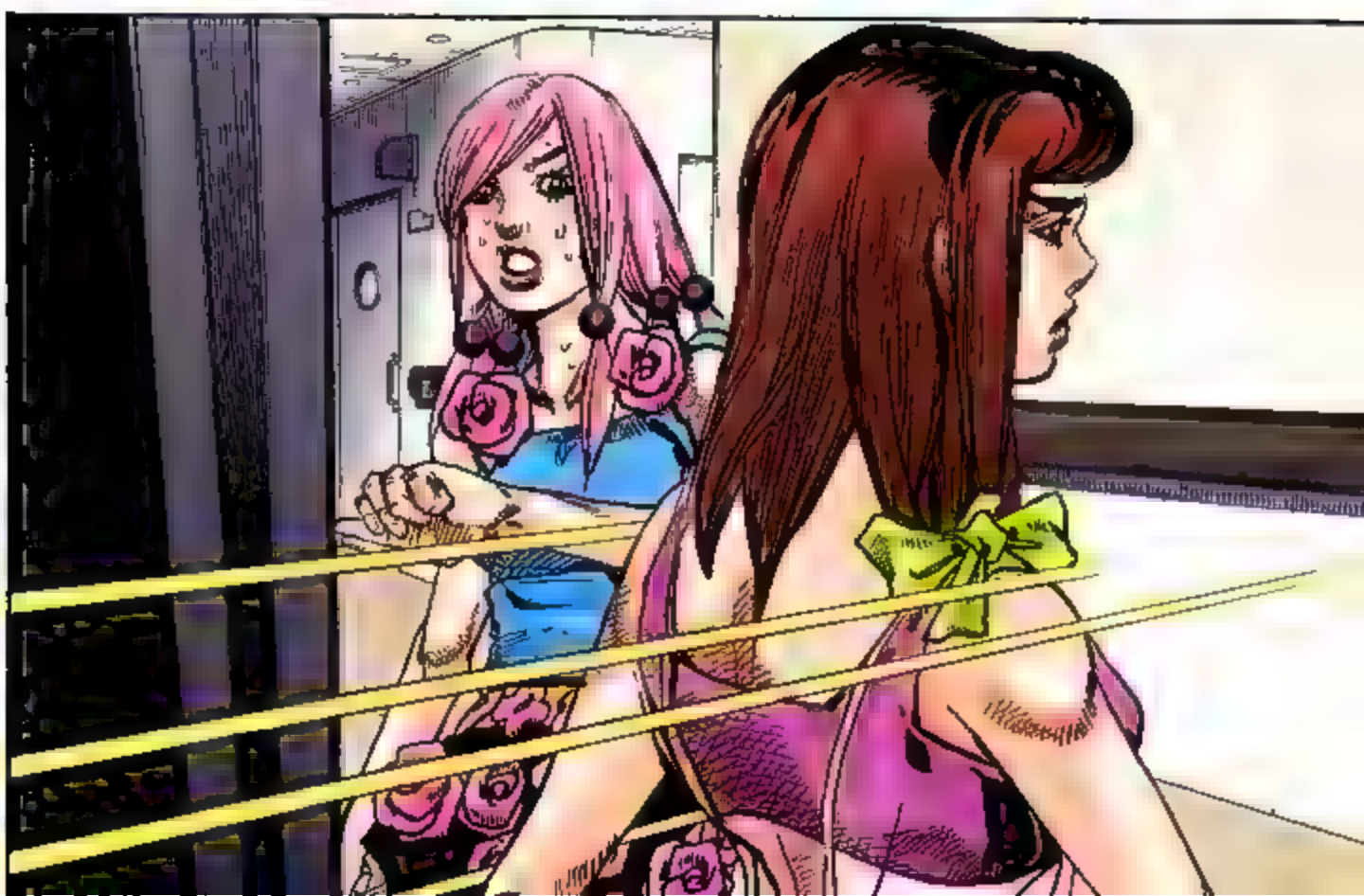
ドドド

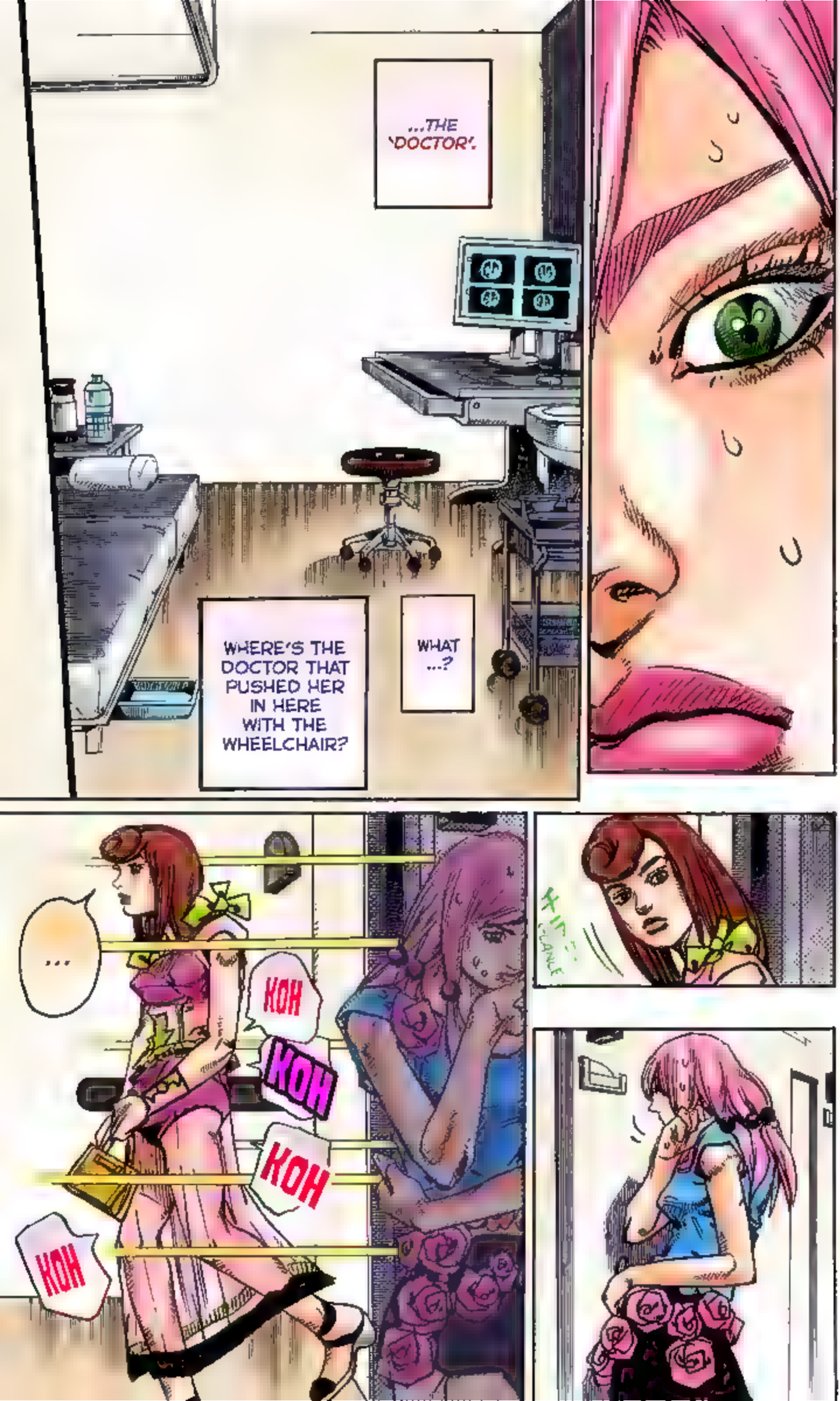

Attending Physician
Wu Tomoki
RATTL
RATTL
WELL, I'LL BE GOING..
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL

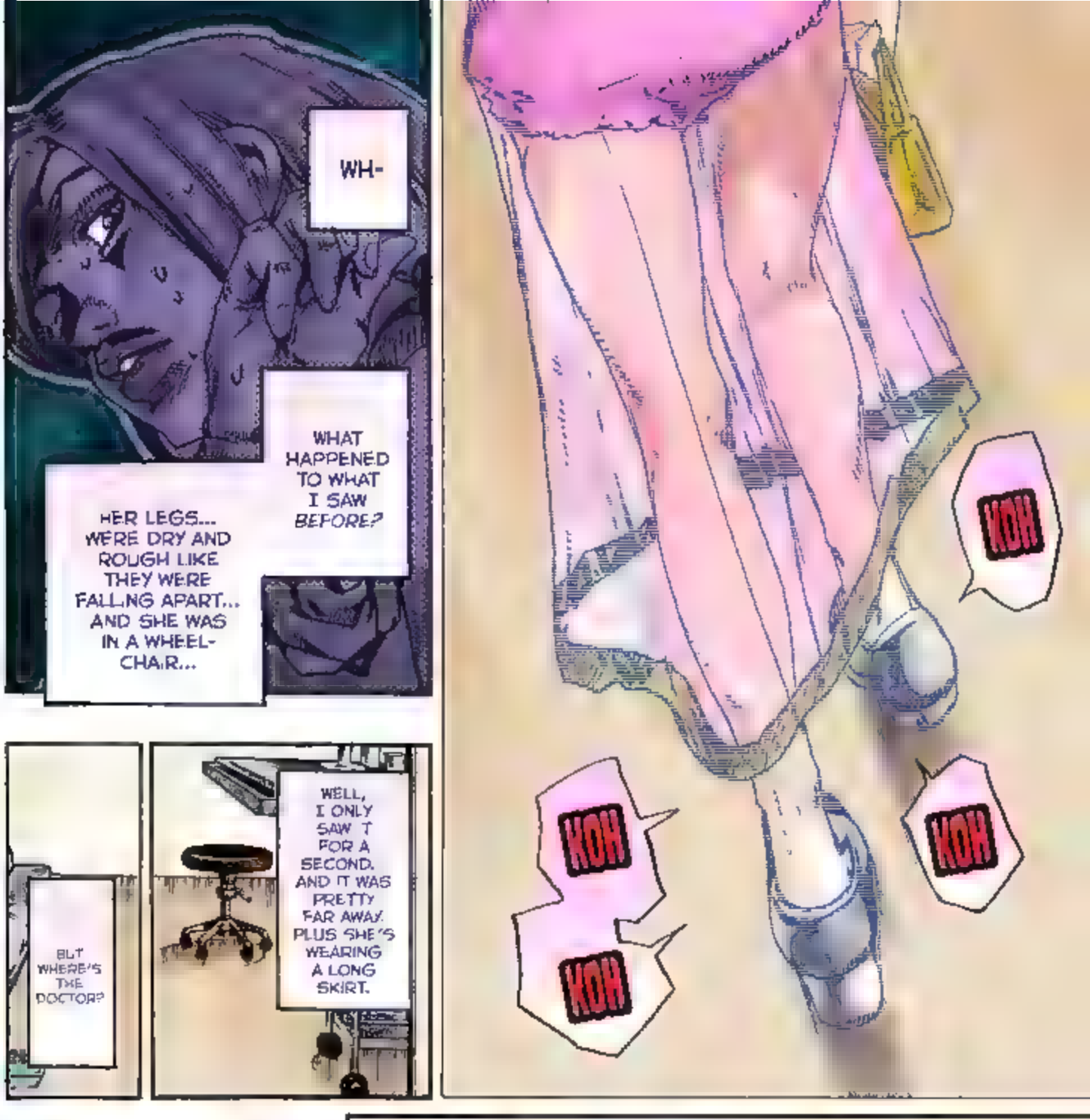

UUAH!!!

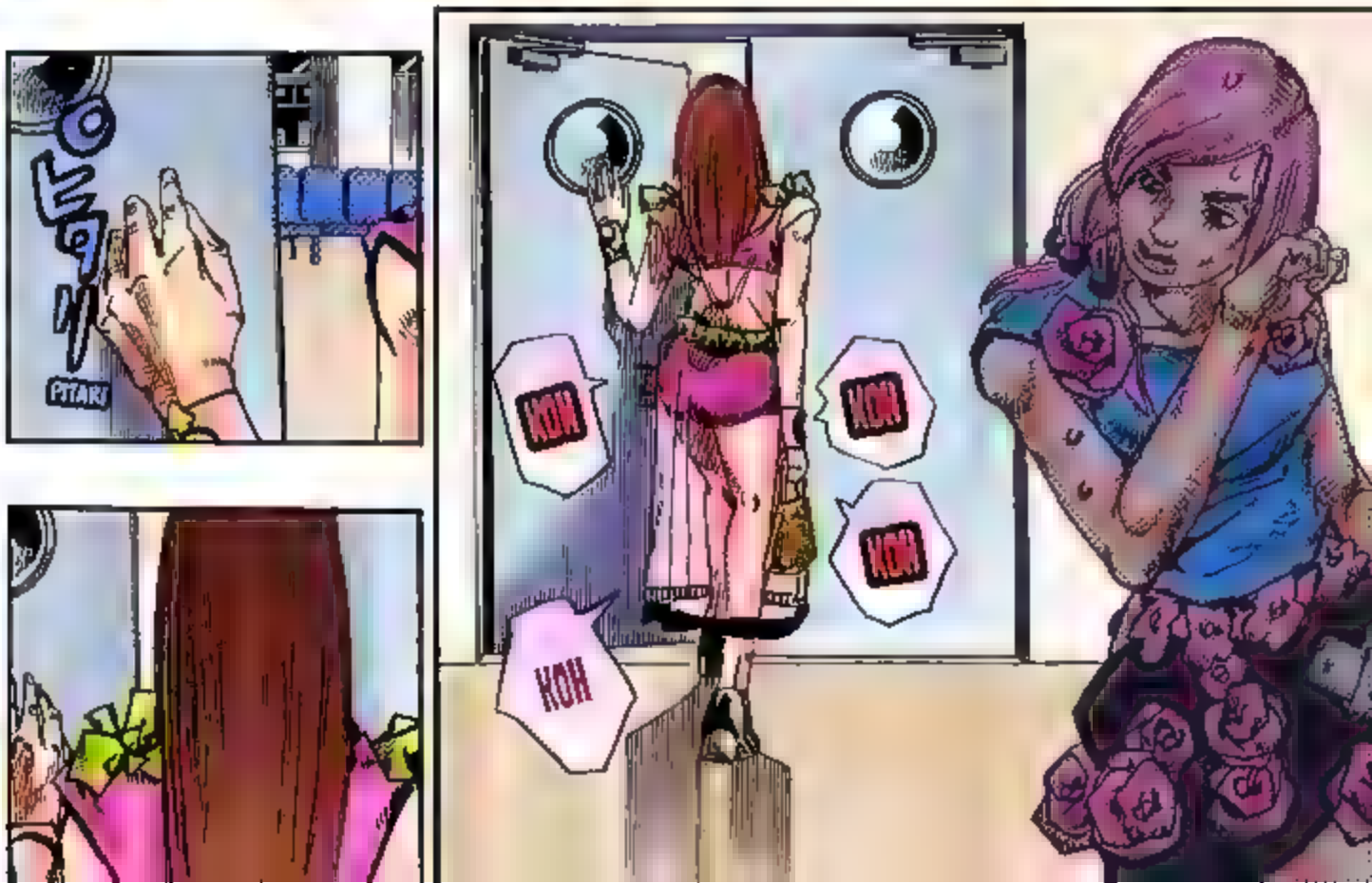
HUH?!!

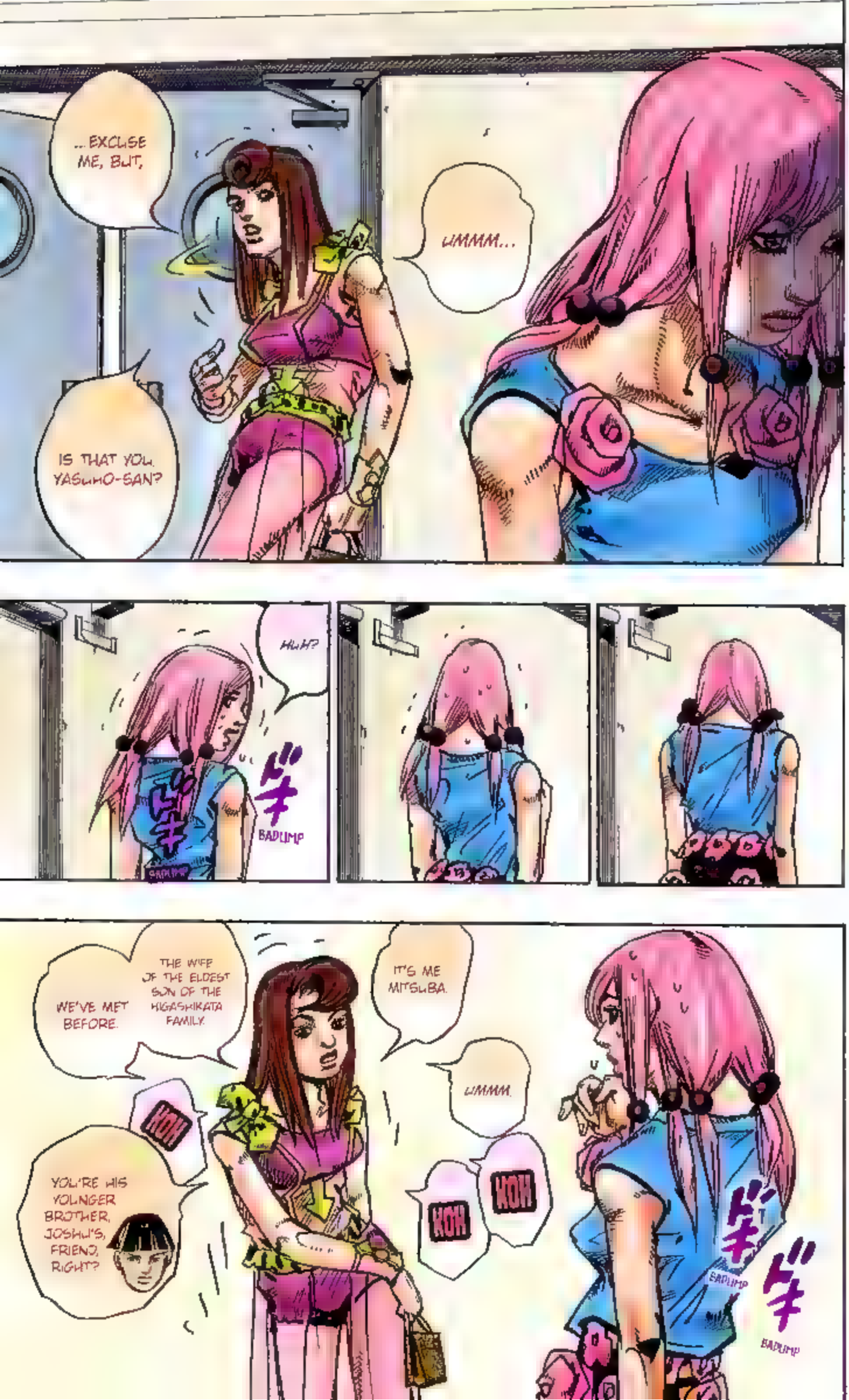


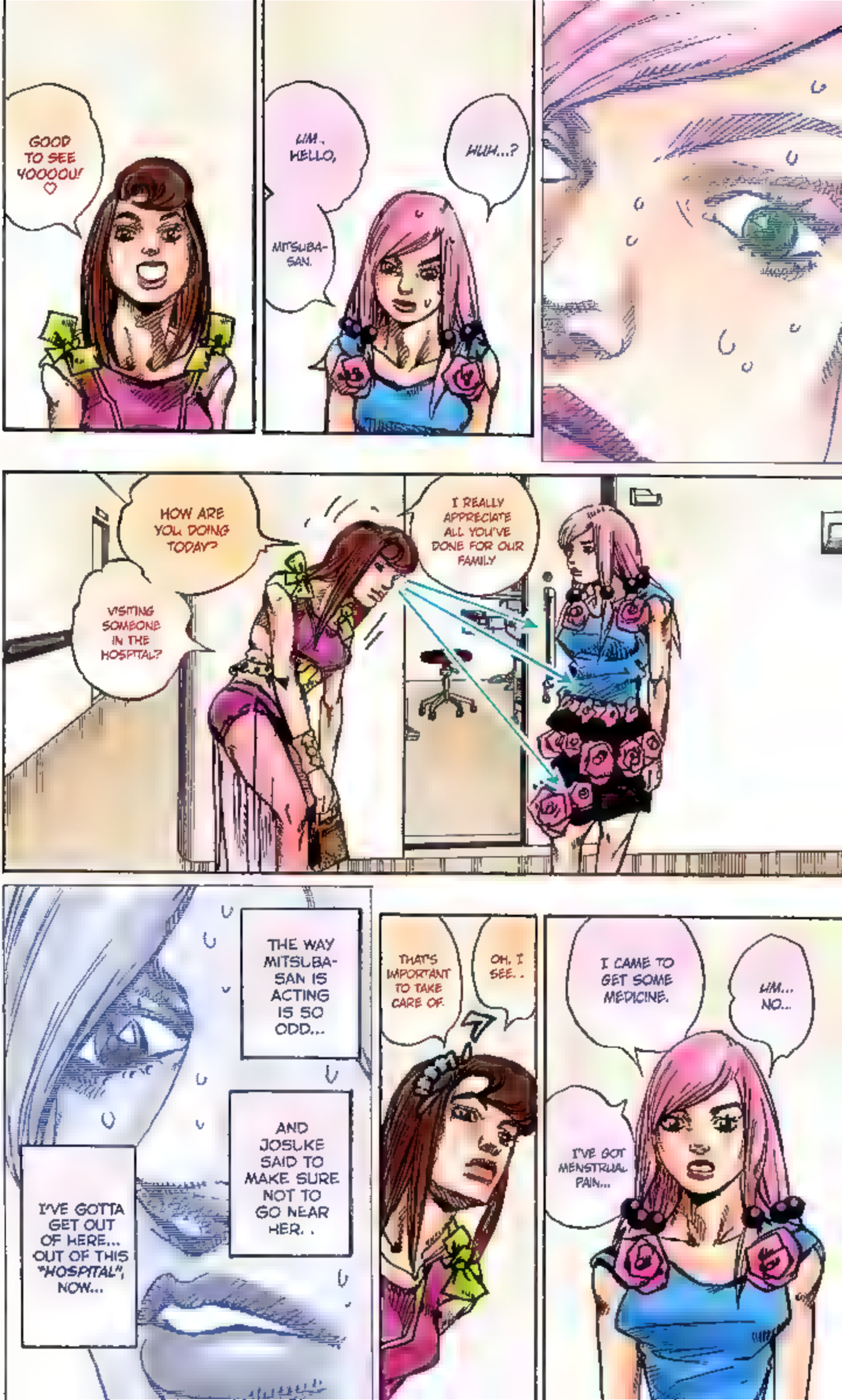


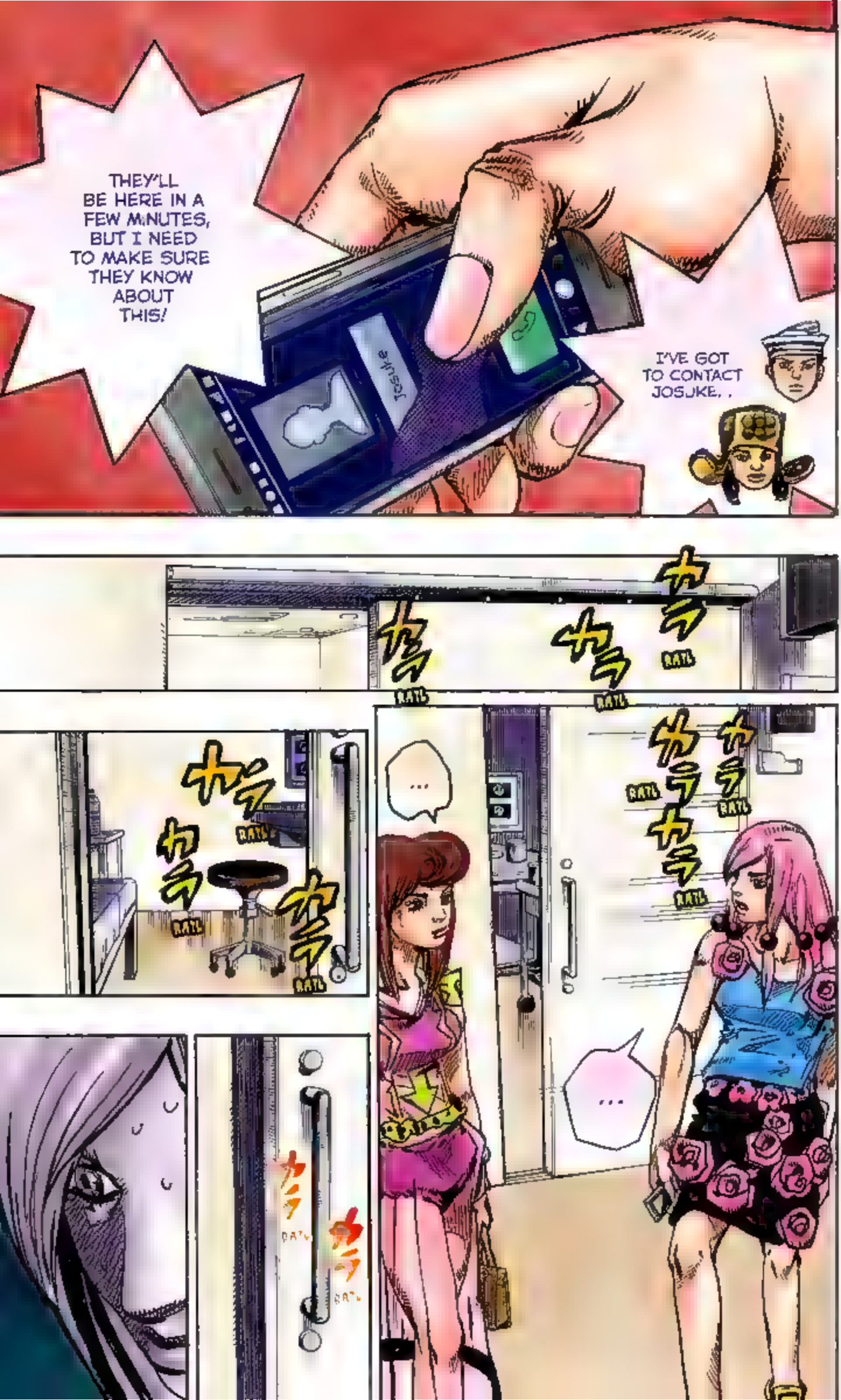

...THE 'DOCTOR'.
WHERE'S THE DOCTOR THAT PUSHED HER IN HERE WITH THE WHEELCHAIR?
WHAT ...?
...
KOH
KOH
KOH
KOH

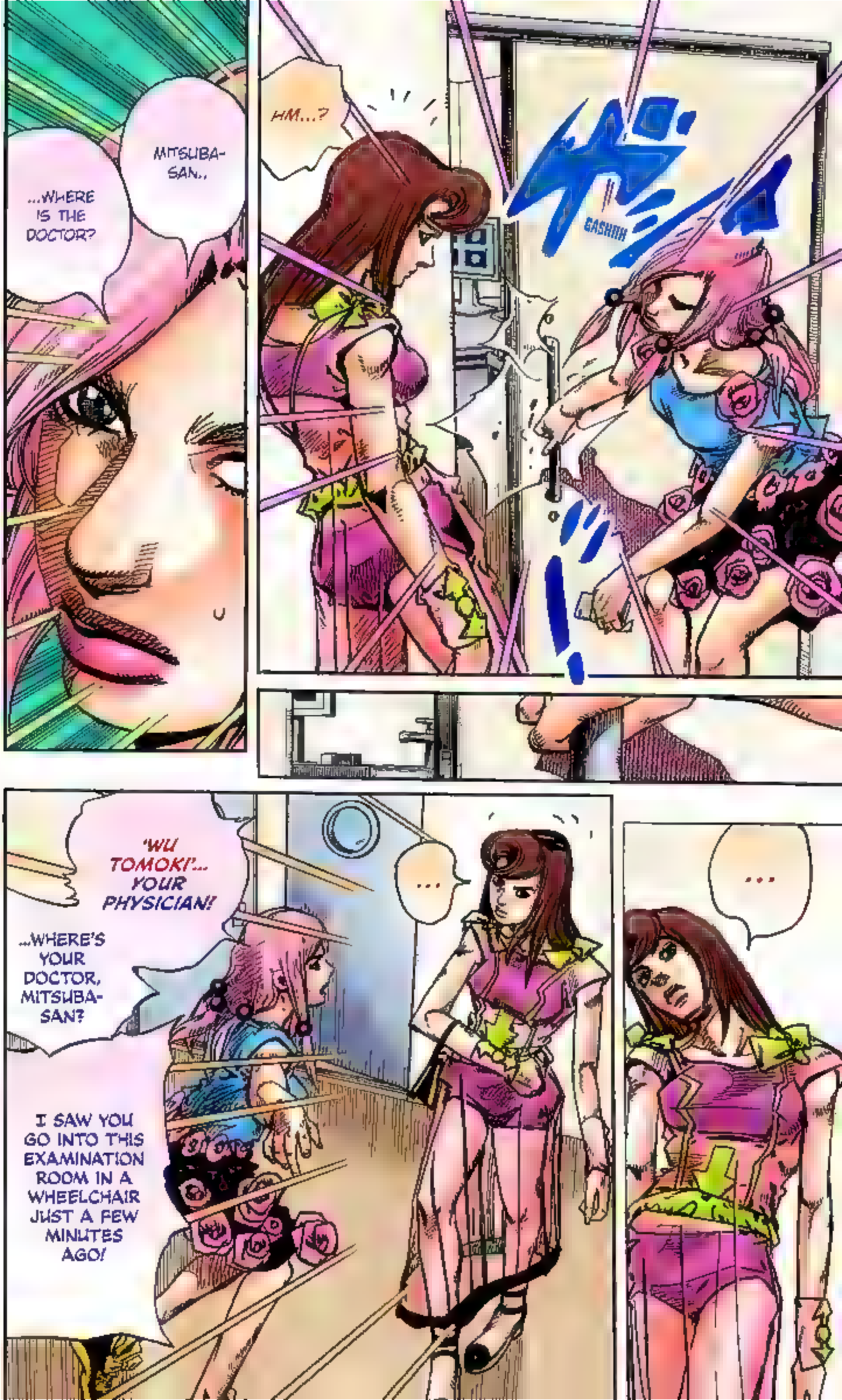

WH-
WHAT HAPPENED TO WHAT I SAW *BEFORE?*
HER LEGS... WERE DRY AND ROUGH LIKE THEY WERE FALLING APART... AND SHE WAS IN A WHEEL-CHAIR...
KOH
KOH
KOH
KOH
WELL, I ONLY SAW IT FOR A SECOND. AND IT WAS PRETTY FAR AWAY. PLUS SHE'S WEARING A LONG SKIRT.
BUT WHERE'S THE DOCTOR?

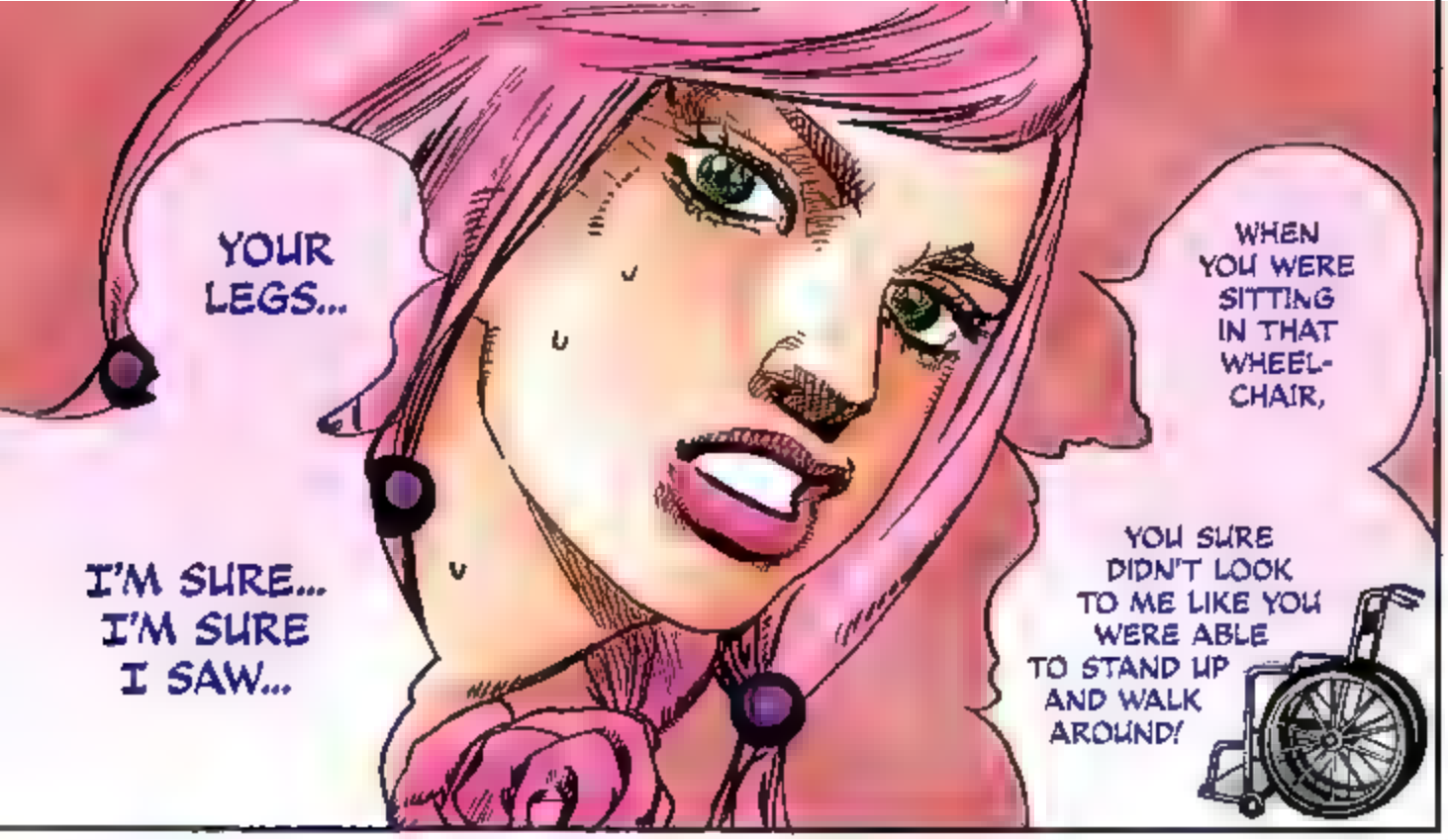

PTAK!
KOH
KOH
KOH
KOH

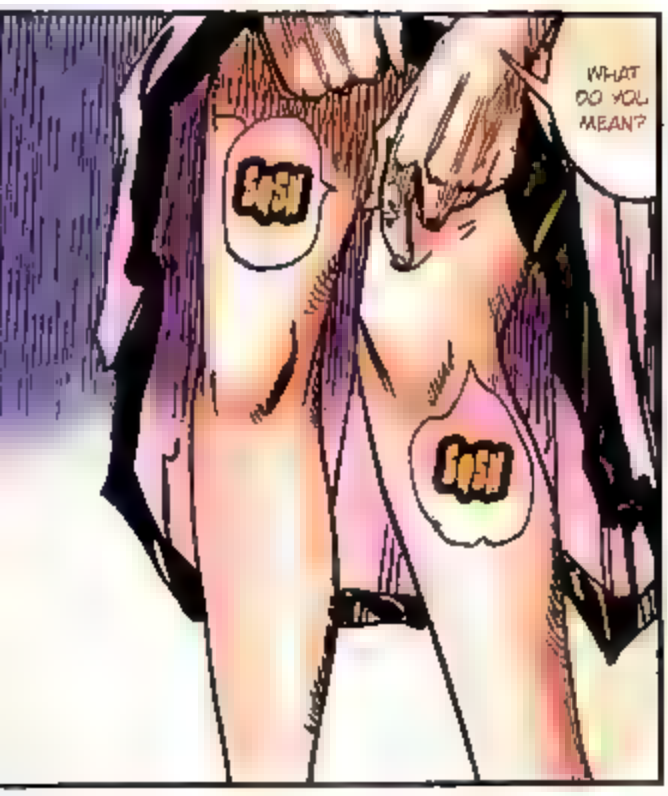

...EXCUSE ME, BUT,
IS THAT YOU, YASUHO-SAN?
UMMM...
HUH?
BADUMP
BADUMP
WE'VE MET BEFORE.
THE WIFE OF THE ELDEST SON OF THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY.
KOH
YOU'RE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, JOSHU'S, FRIEND, RIGHT?
IT'S ME MITSUBA.
UMMM.
KOH
KOH
BADUMP
BADUMP

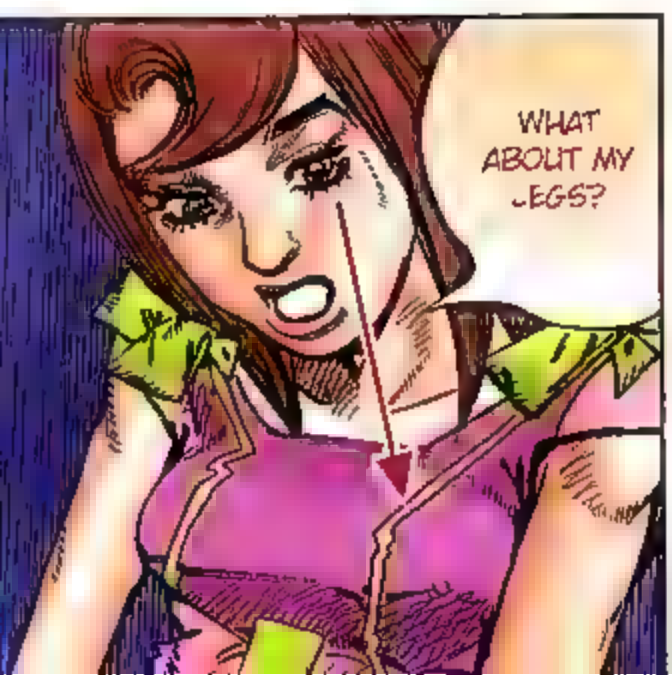

GOOD TO SEE YOOOOU! ♡
UM., HELLO, MITSUBA-SAN.
HUH...?
HOW ARE YOU DOING TODAY?
VISITING SOMEONE IN THE HOSPITAL?
I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR FAMILY
THE WAY MITSUBA-SAN IS ACTING IS SO ODD...
AND JOSUKE SAID TO MAKE SURE NOT TO GO NEAR HER. .
I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE... OUT OF THIS "HOSPITAL", NOW...
THAT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF.
OH, I SEE. .
I CAME TO GET SOME MEDICINE.
UM... NO...
I'VE GOT MENSTRUAL PAIN...

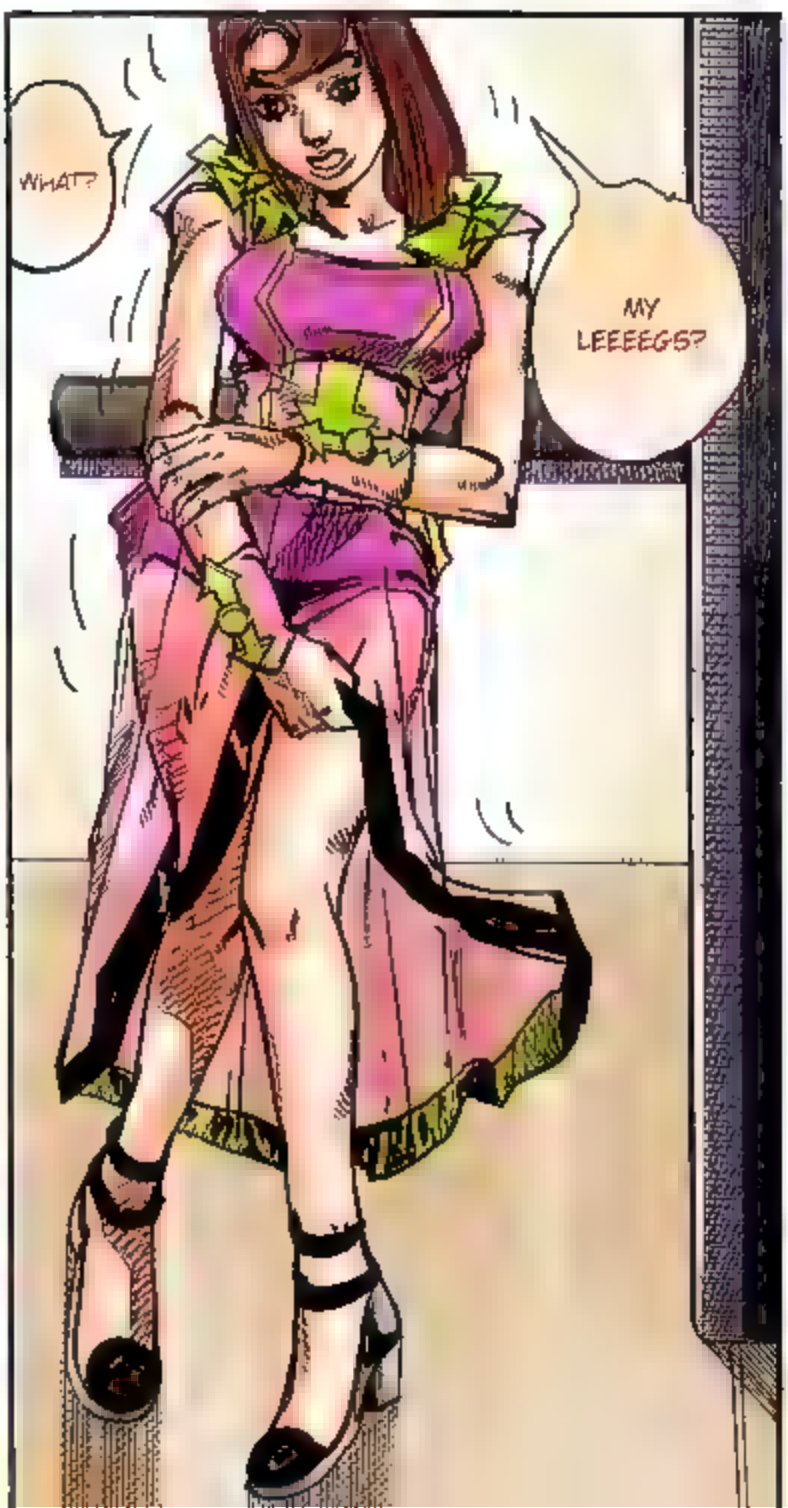

THEY'LL BE HERE IN A FEW MINUTES, BUT I NEED TO MAKE SURE THEY KNOW ABOUT THIS!
JOSUKE
I'VE GOT TO CONTACT JOSUKE. .
RATL
...
...

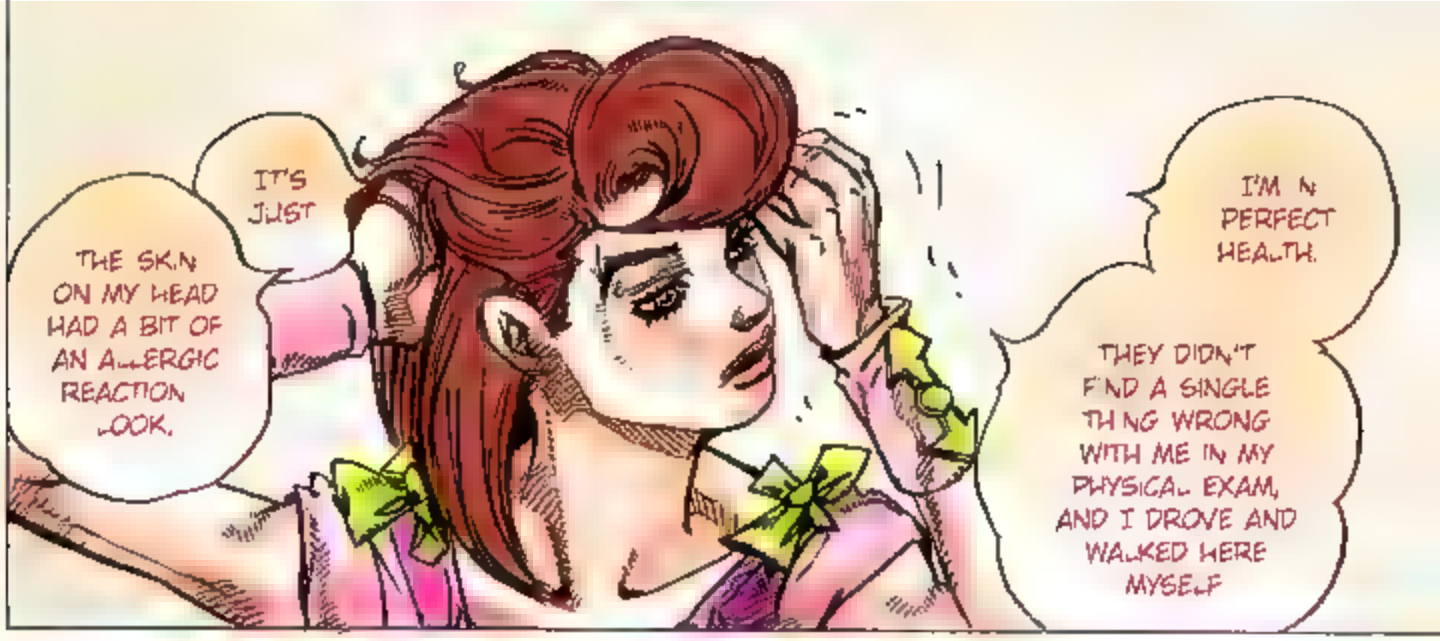

MITSUBA-SAN..
...WHERE IS THE DOCTOR?
HM...?
GASHIN
'WU TOMOKI'... YOUR PHYSICIAN!
...WHERE'S YOUR DOCTOR, MITSUBA-SAN?
I SAW YOU GO INTO THIS EXAMINATION ROOM IN A WHEELCHAIR JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO!
...
...

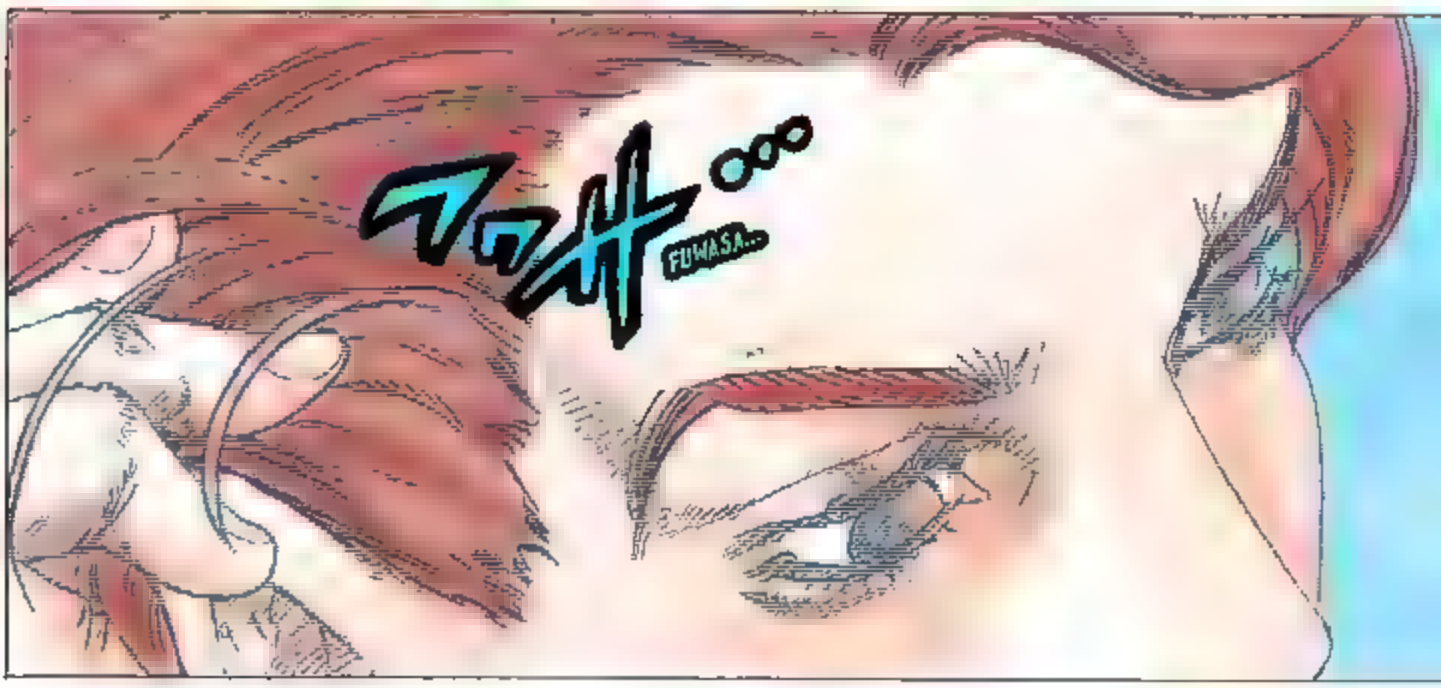

YOUR LEGS...
I'M SURE... I'M SURE I SAW...
WHEN YOU WERE SITTING IN THAT WHEEL-CHAIR,
YOU SURE DIDN'T LOOK TO ME LIKE YOU WERE ABLE TO STAND UP AND WALK AROUND!

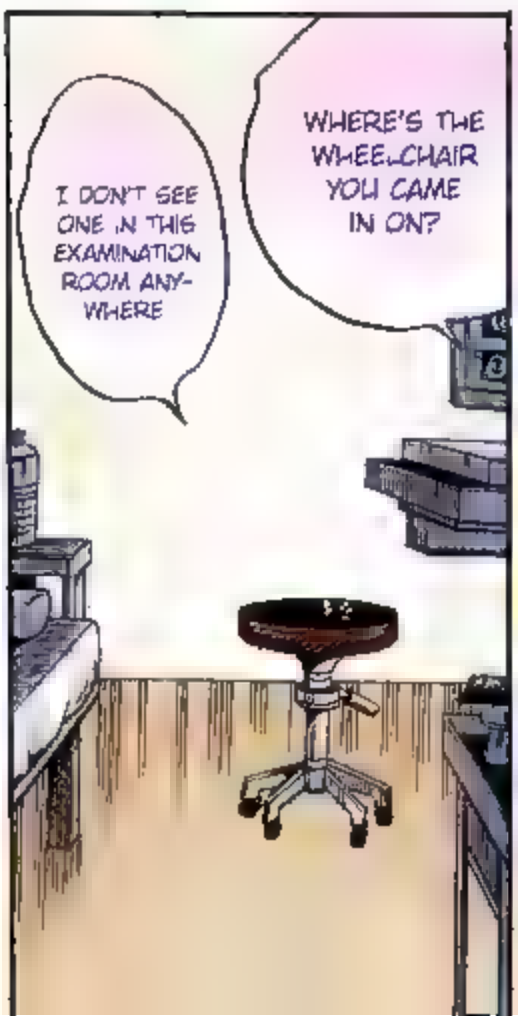

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


WHAT ABOUT MY LEGS?

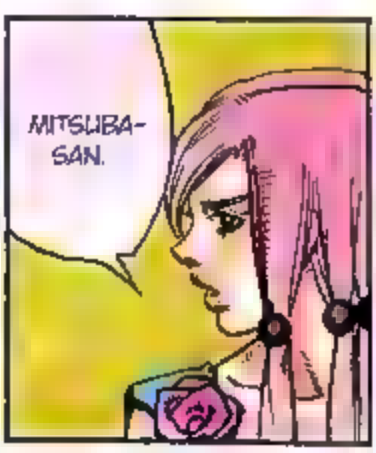

WHAT?
MY LEEEEGS?

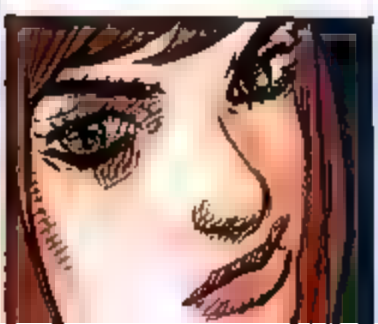

IT'S JUST
THE SKIN ON MY HEAD HAD A BIT OF AN ALLERGIC REACTION LOOK.
I'M IN PERFECT HEALTH.
THEY DIDN'T FIND A SINGLE THING WRONG WITH ME IN MY PHYSICAL EXAM, AND I DROVE AND WALKED HERE MYSELF

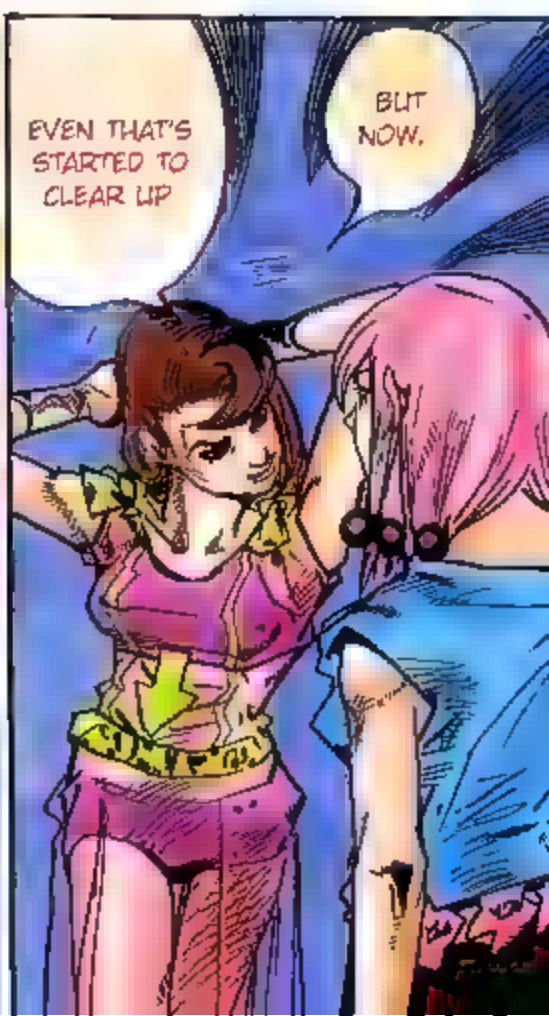

FUWASA...

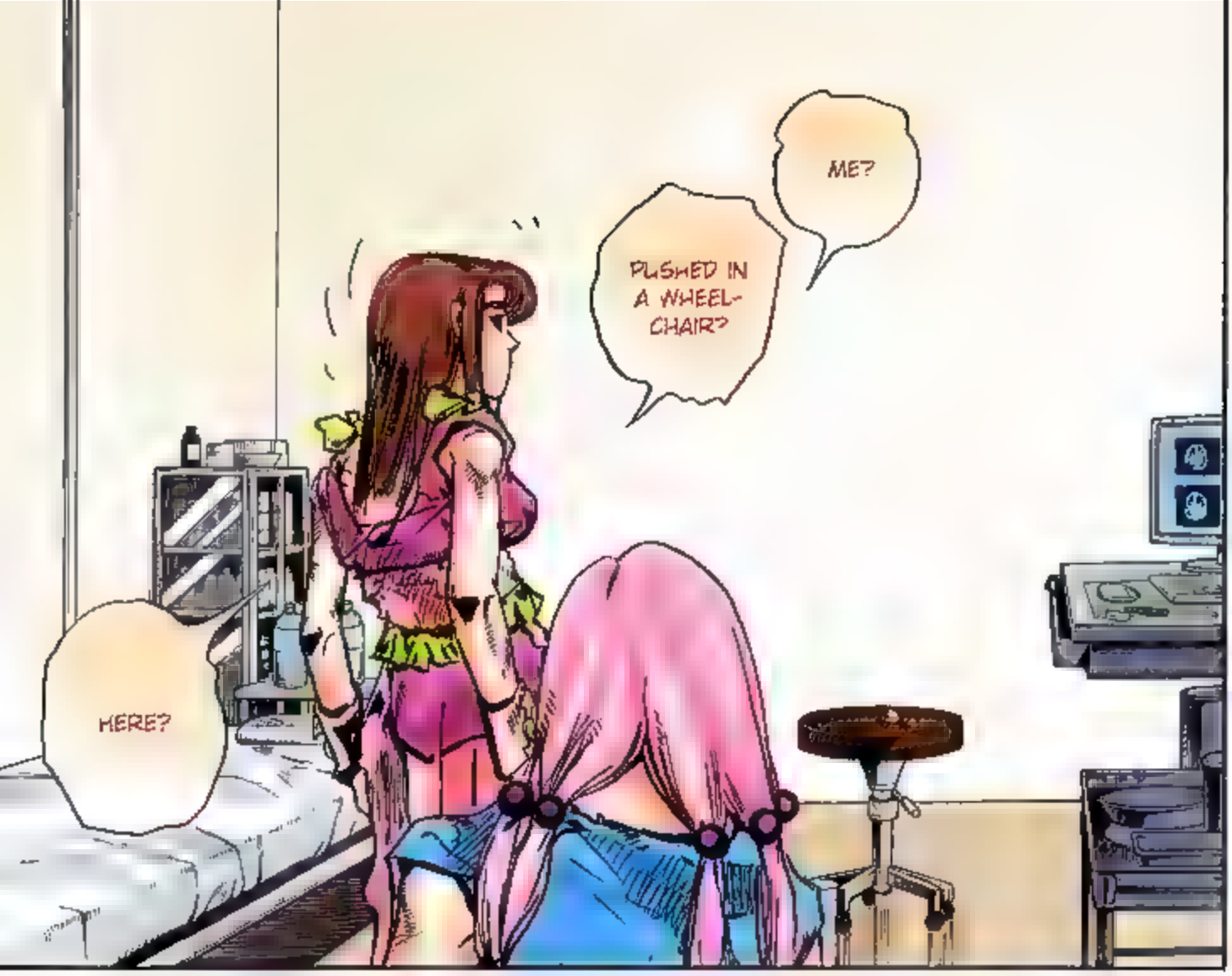

I DON'T SEE ONE IN THIS EXAMINATION ROOM ANY-WHERE
WHERE'S THE WHEELCHAIR YOU CAME IN ON?

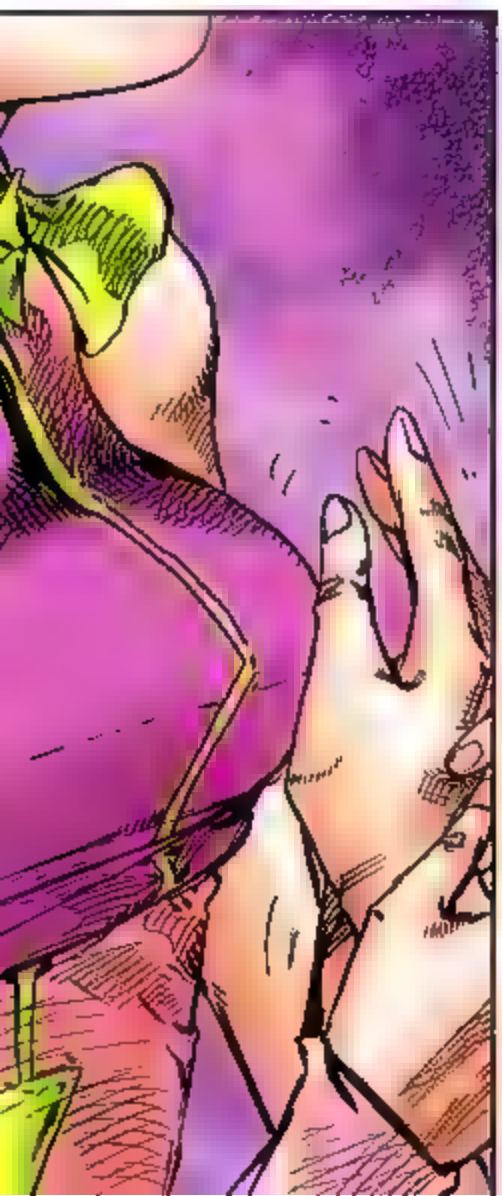
THE WHEEL-CHAIR.


MITSUBA-SAN.




EVEN THAT'S STARTED TO CLEAR UP
BUT NOW,


ME?
PUSHED IN A WHEEL-CHAIR?
HERE?

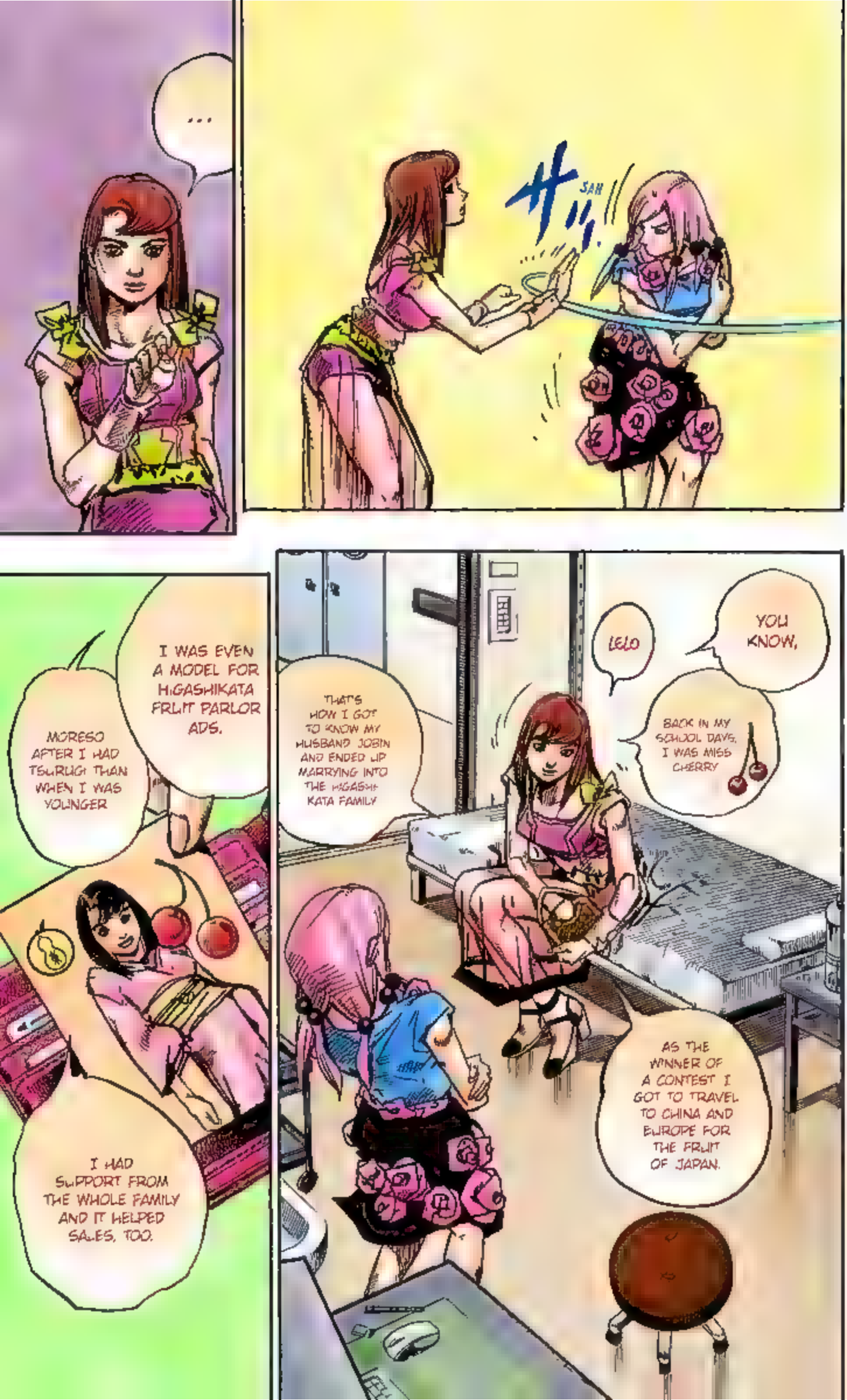


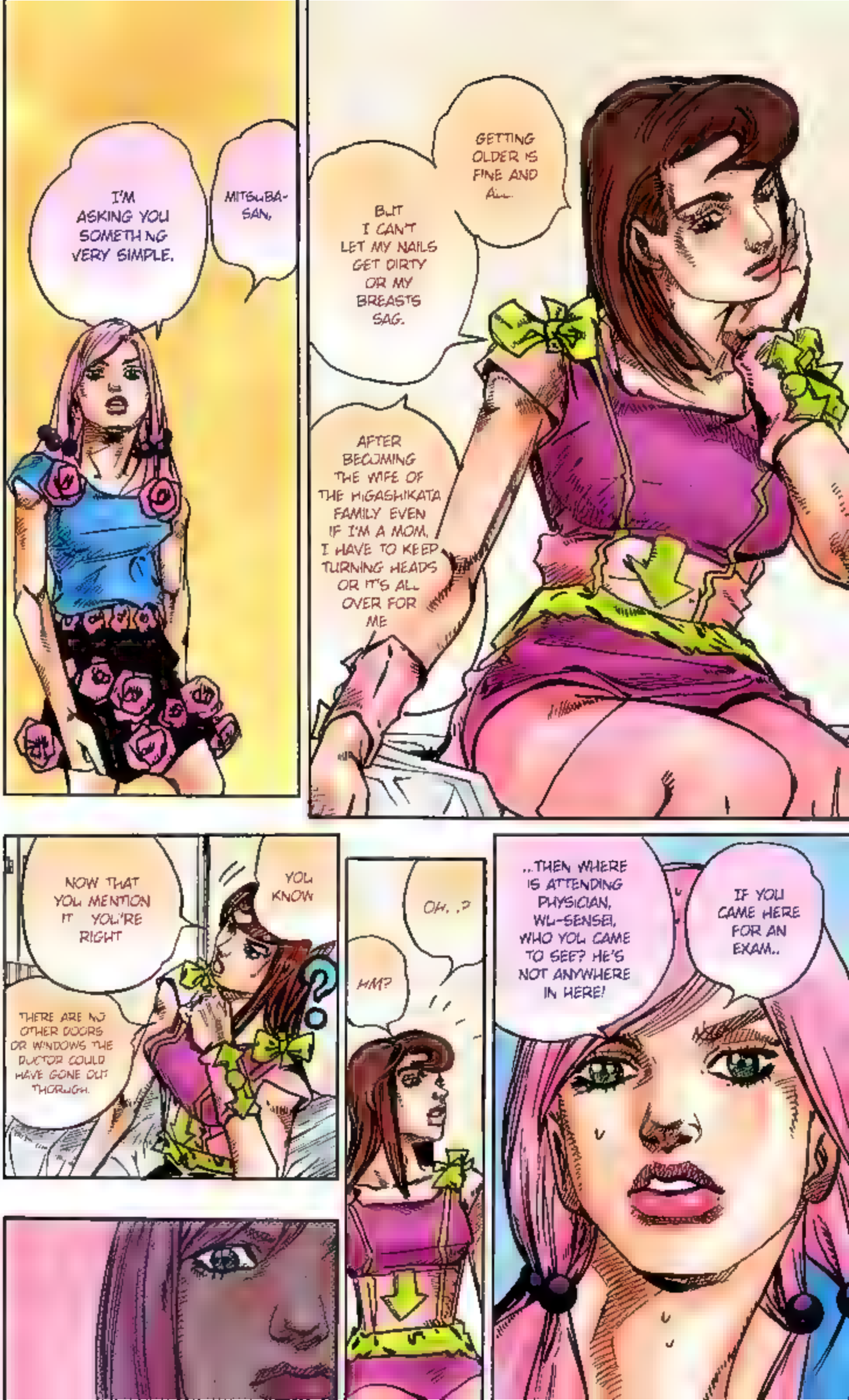
SO...
THE REASON I CAME TO THIS HOSPITAL IS

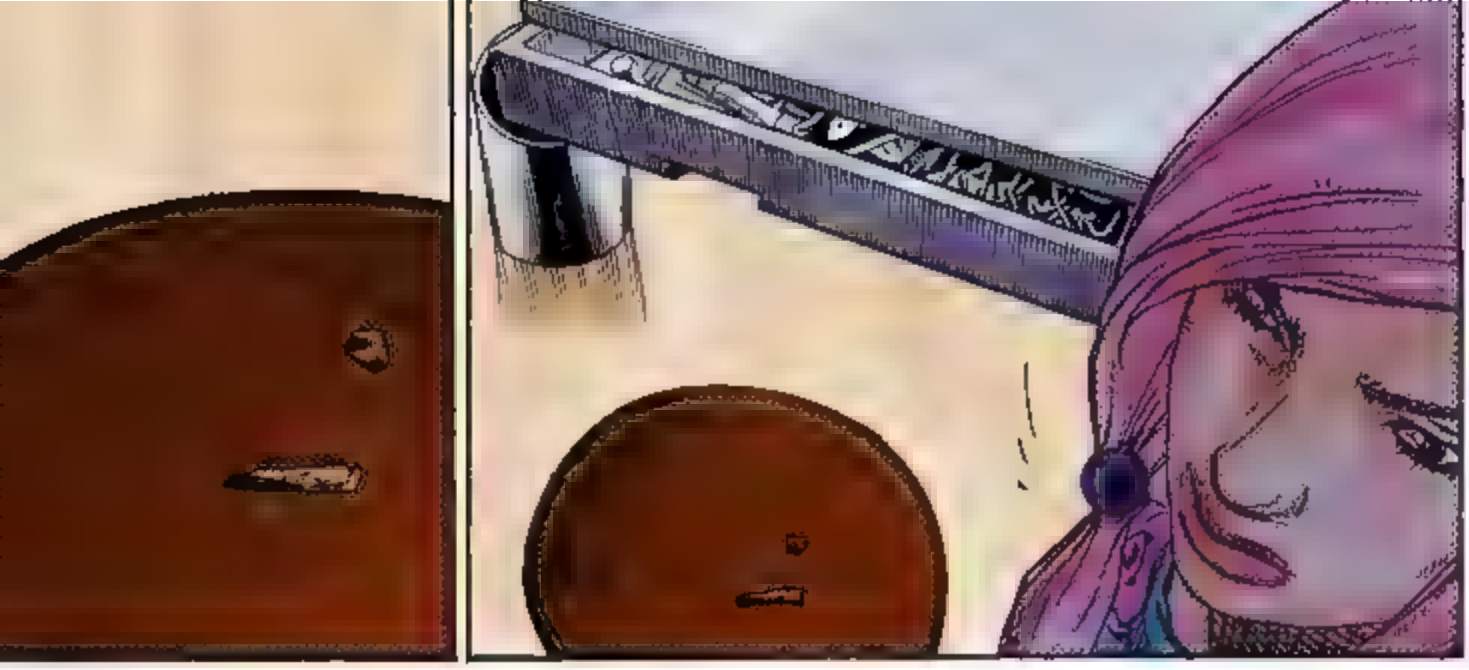
THOUGH I'LL NEED YOU TO KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM THE FAMILY. YASUHO-SAN.

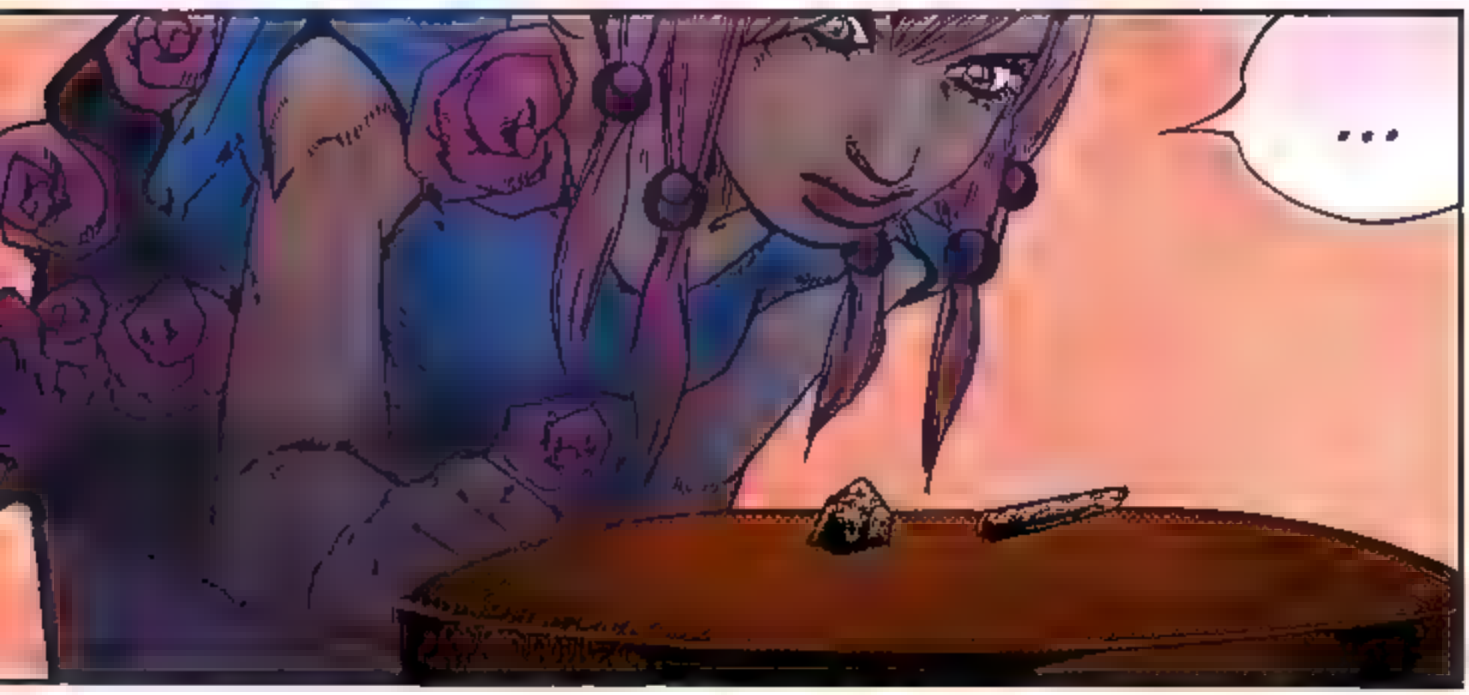
HOW BIZARRE
COULD YOU PERHAPS HAVE MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
I HAVE NO REASON TO BE SITTING IN A WHEELCHAIR, AFTER ALL.
YOU SEE

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?
WHAT DO I. ?'
THE FEEL...
. AND THE VOLUME.
YOU'RE 19 RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU, YASUHO-SAN?
I CAME TO THIS HOSPITAL FOR A "BREAST ENLARGEMENT" NOT THAT THERE WAS ANY SURGERY
KEEP IT A SECRET FROM JOBIN-SAN, TOO, OKAY?
AMAZING, AREN'T THEY? I'D SAY THEY'RE NO WORSE THAN WHEN I WAS IN MY TEENS.


...
SAH
I WAS EVEN A MODEL FOR HIGASHIKATA FRUIT PARLOR ADS.
MORE SO AFTER I HAD TSURUGI THAN WHEN I WAS YOUNGER
I HAD SUPPORT FROM THE WHOLE FAMILY AND IT HELPED SALES, TOO.
LELO
YOU KNOW,
BACK IN MY SCHOOL DAYS, I WAS MISS CHERRY
THAT'S HOW I GOT TO KNOW MY HUSBAND JOBIN AND ENDED UP MARRYING INTO THE HIGASHI-KATA FAMILY
AS THE WINNER OF A CONTEST I GOT TO TRAVEL TO CHINA AND EUROPE FOR THE FRUIT OF JAPAN.


MITSUBA-SAN,
I'M ASKING YOU SOMETHING VERY SIMPLE.
GETTING OLDER IS FINE AND ALL.
BUT I CAN'T LET MY NAILS GET DIRTY OR MY BREASTS SAG.
AFTER BECOMING THE WIFE OF THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY EVEN IF I'M A MOM, I HAVE TO KEEP TURNING HEADS OR IT'S ALL OVER FOR ME
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT YOU'RE RIGHT
YOU KNOW
THERE ARE NO OTHER DOORS OR WINDOWS THE DOCTOR COULD HAVE GONE OUT THROUGH.
OH..?
HM?
..THEN WHERE IS ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, WU-SENSEI, WHO YOU CAME TO SEE? HE'S NOT ANYWHERE IN HERE!
IF YOU CAME HERE FOR AN EXAM..

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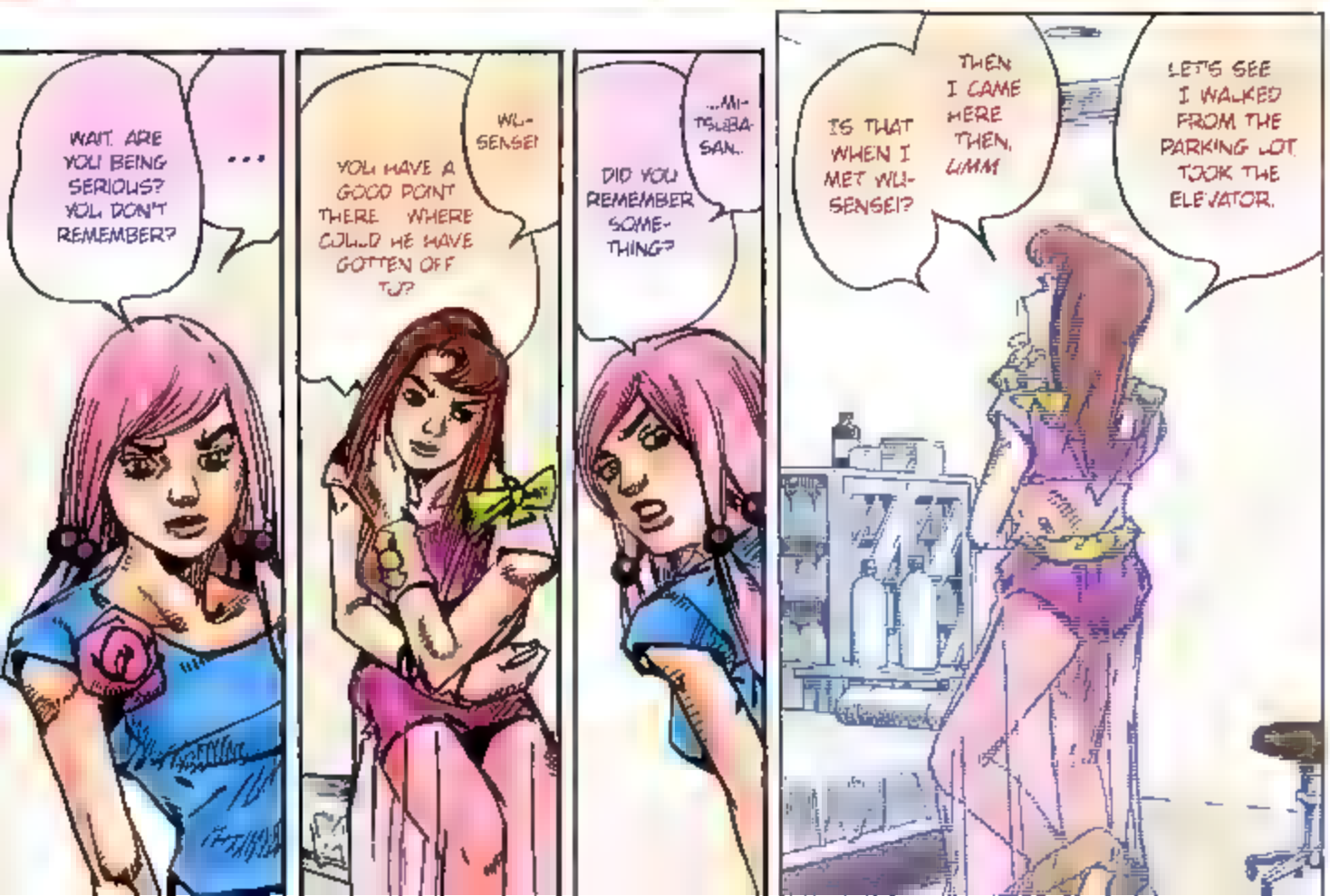
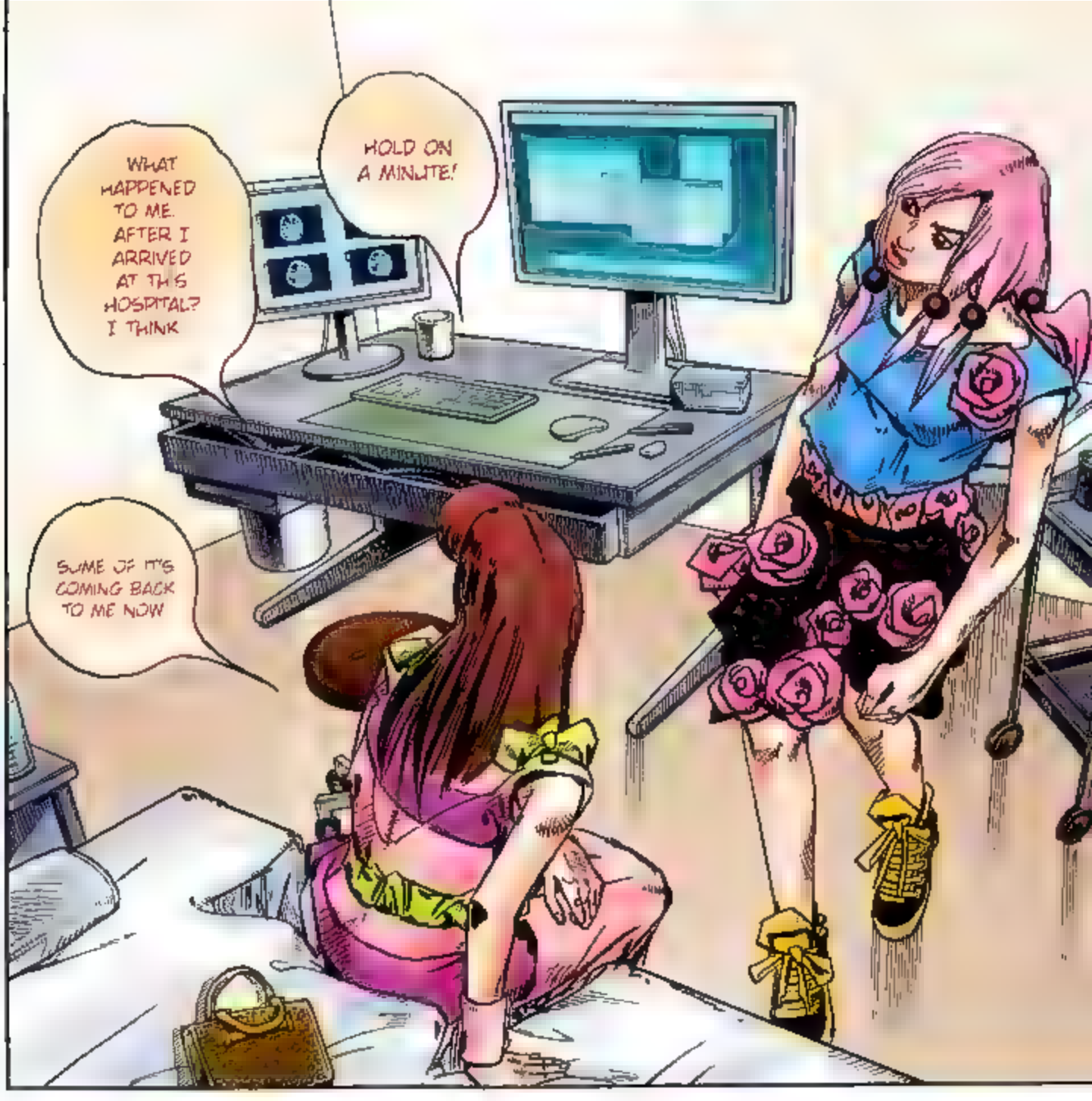
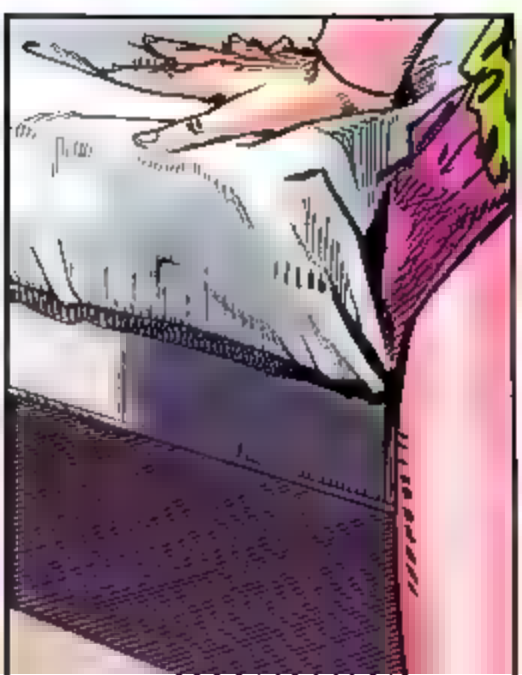
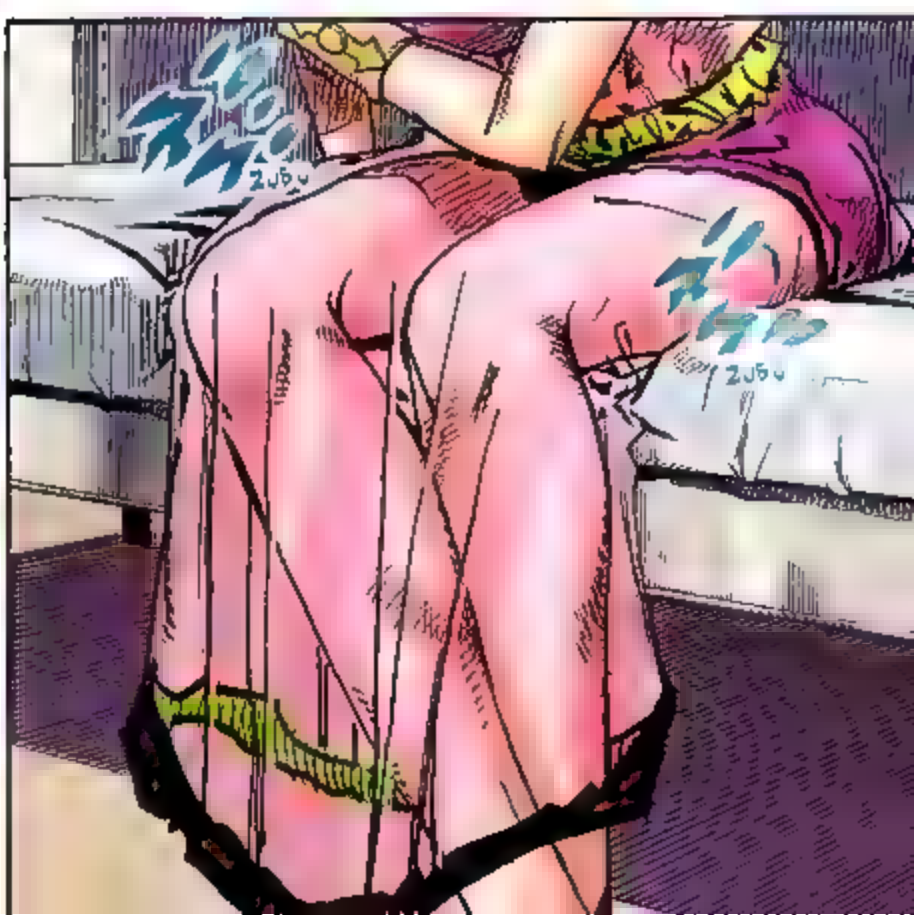
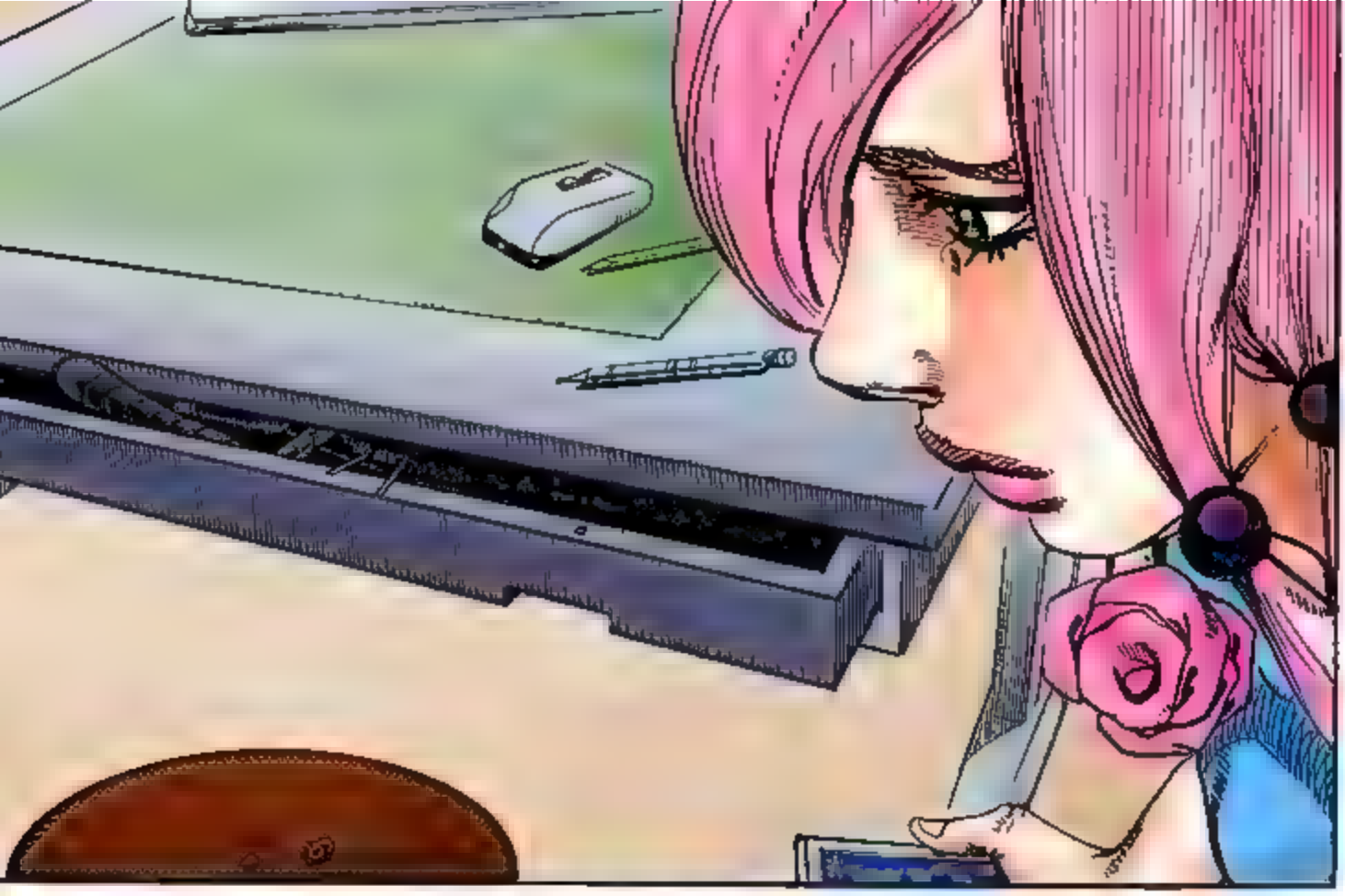

WAIT. ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS? YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
...
WU-SENSEI
YOU HAVE A GOOD POINT THERE. WHERE COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN OFF TO?
...MI-TSUBA-SAN..
DID YOU REMEMBER SOME-THING?
LET'S SEE I WALKED FROM THE PARKING LOT TOOK THE ELEVATOR.
THEN I CAME HERE THEN, UMM
IS THAT WHEN I MET WU-SENSEI?

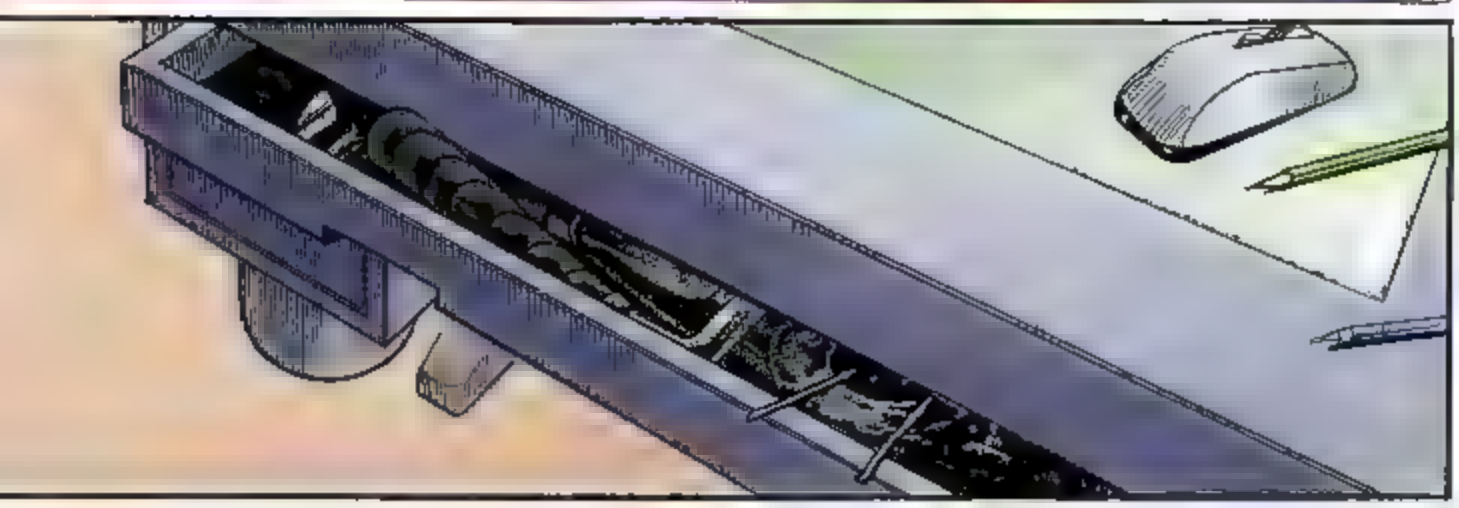

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME. AFTER I ARRIVED AT THIS HOSPITAL? I THINK
HOLD ON A MINUTE!
SUME OF IT'S COMING BACK TO ME NOW

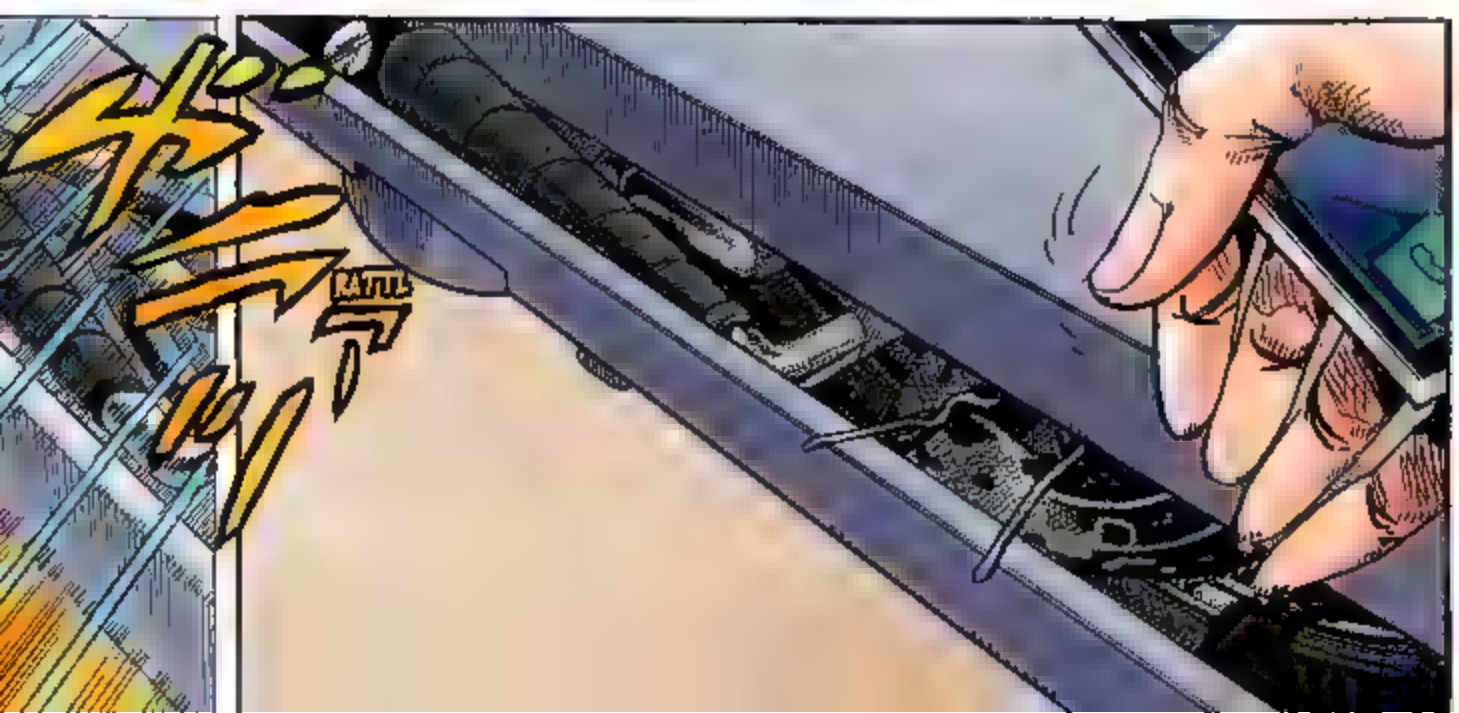


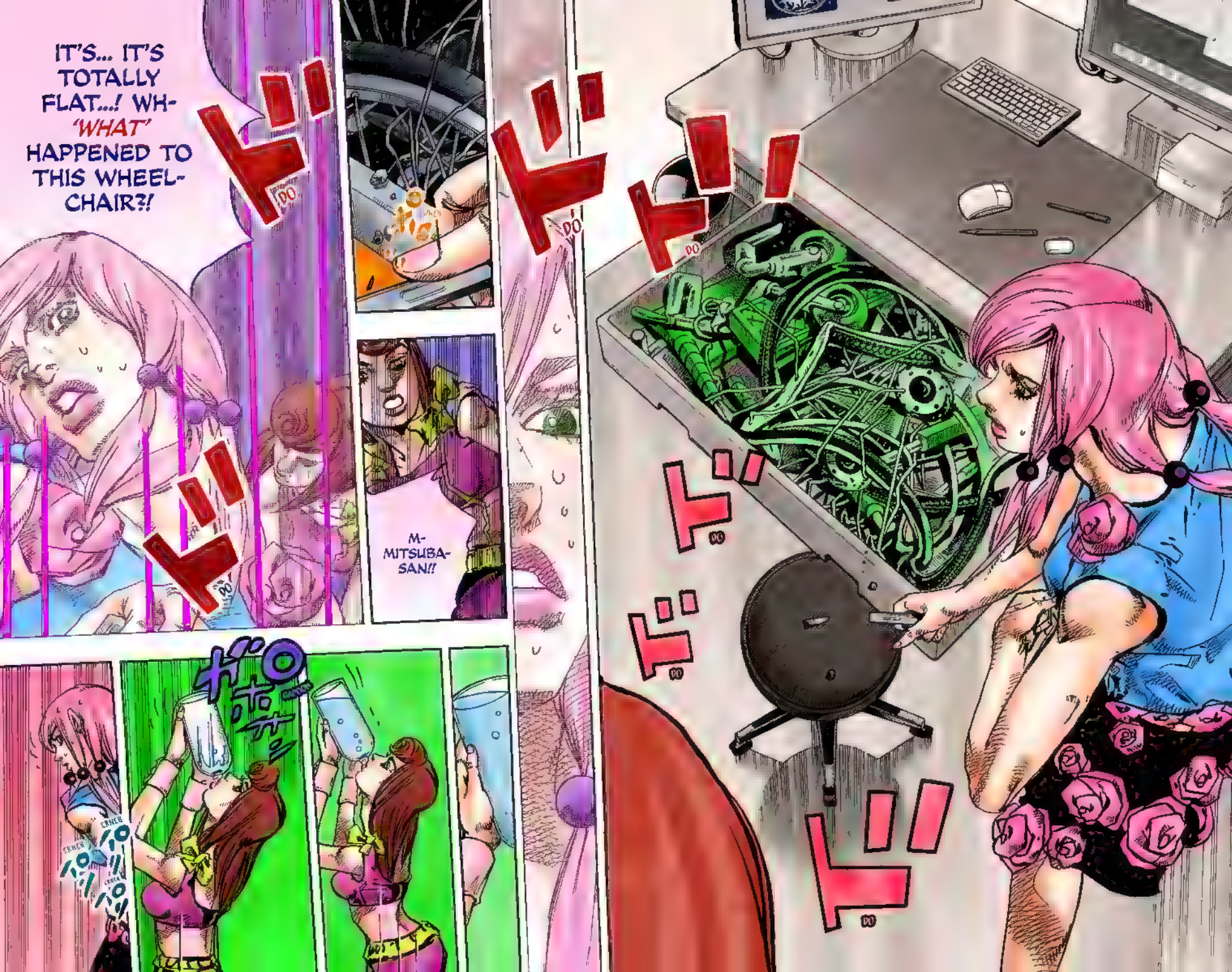


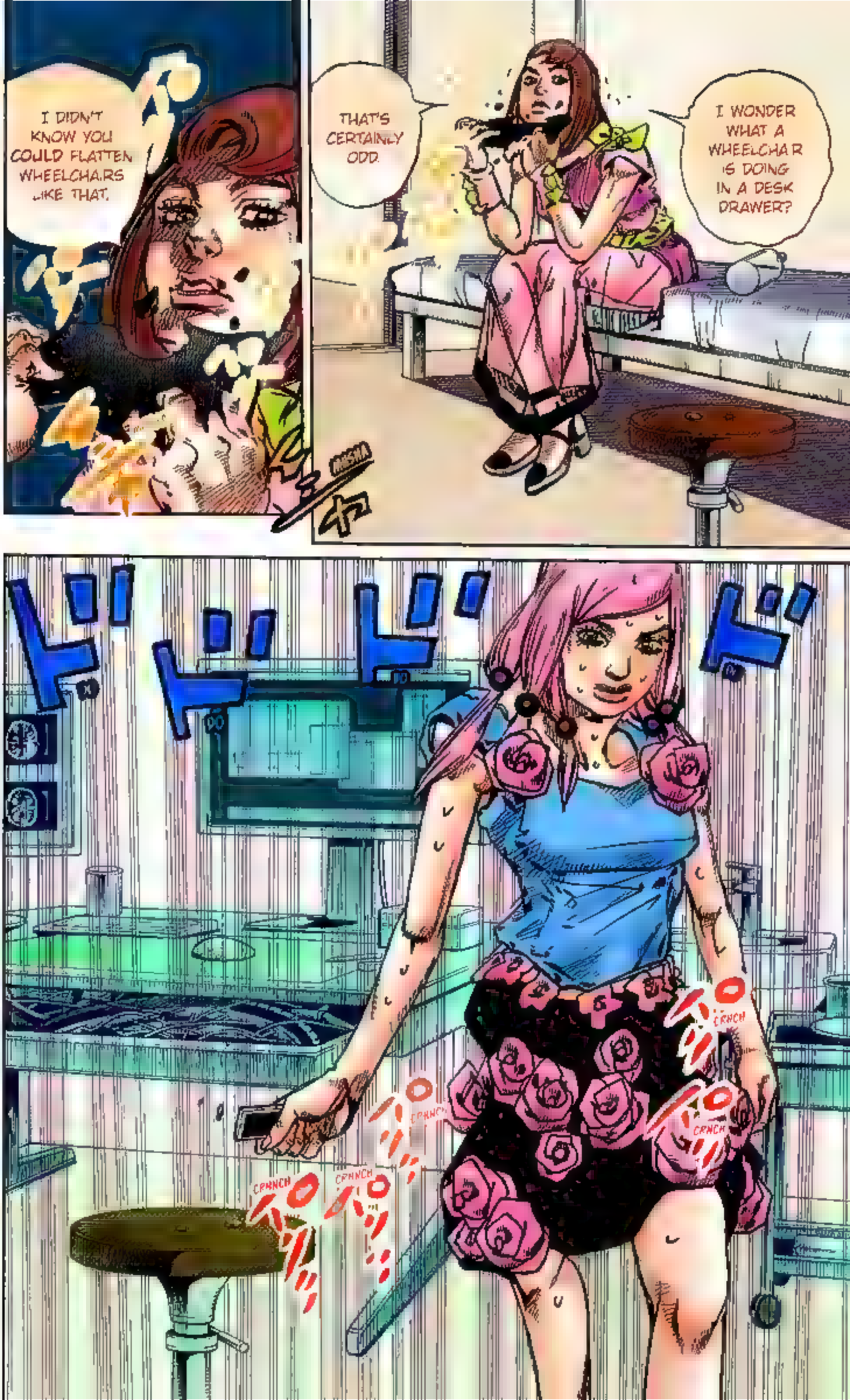


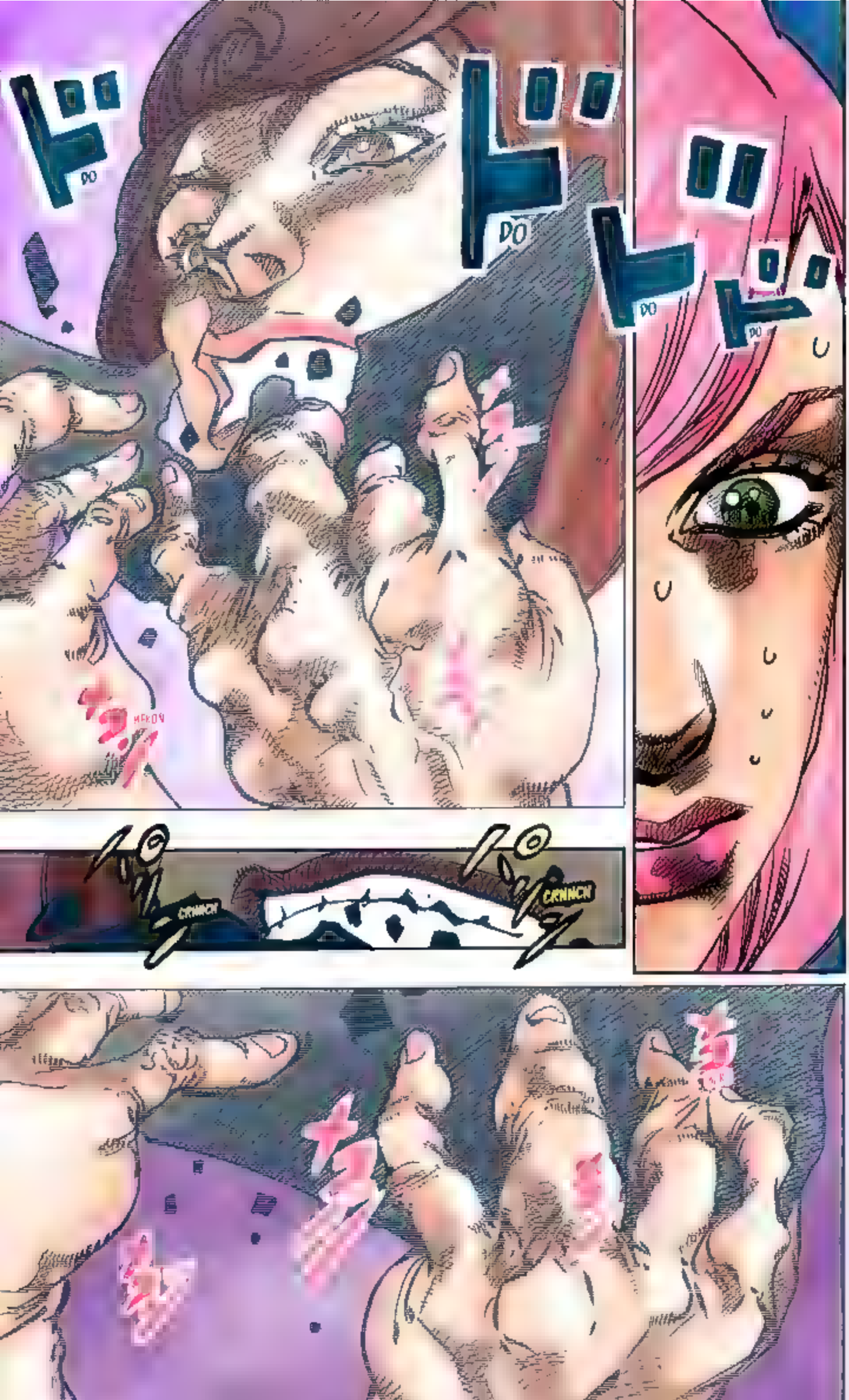
?
...

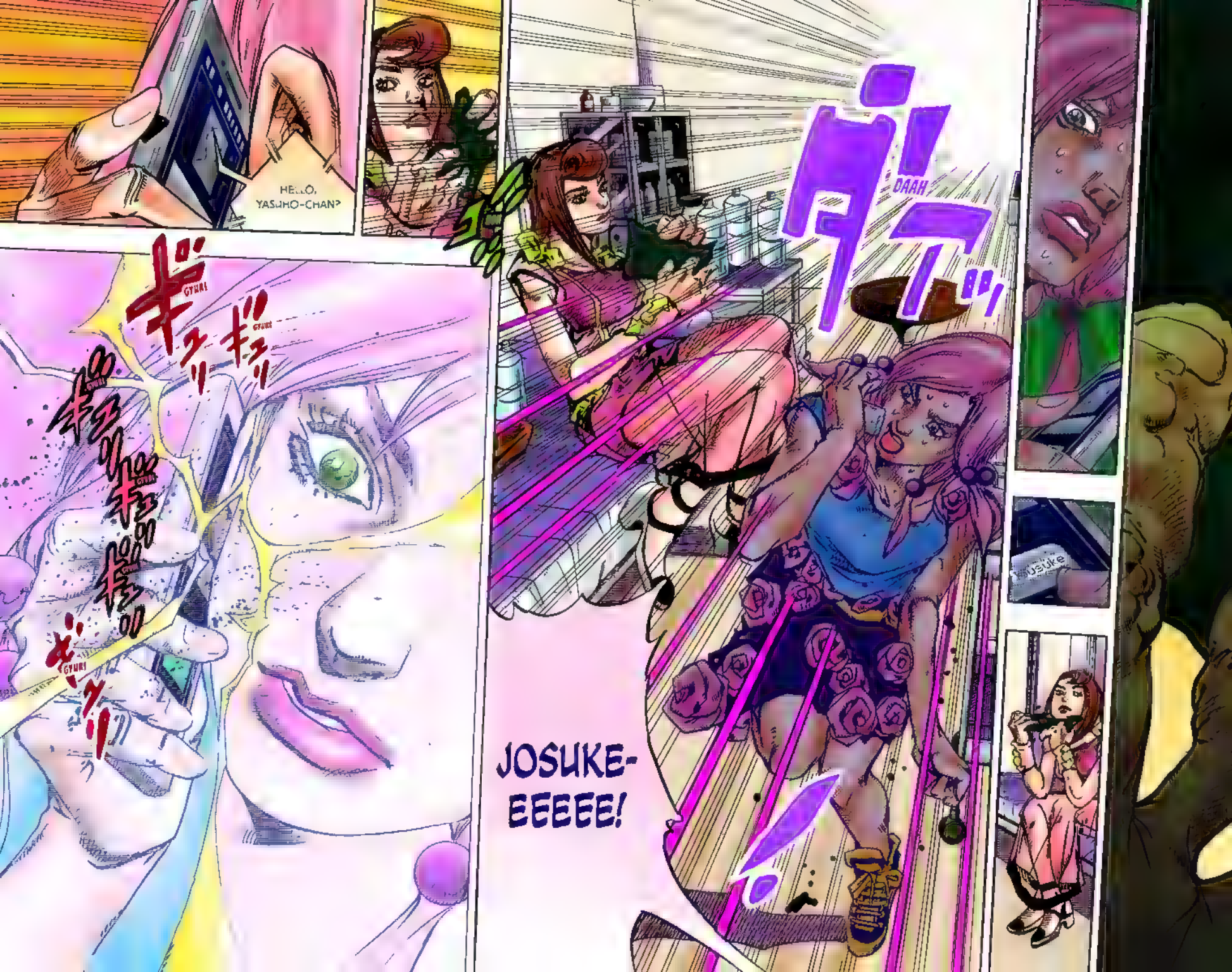


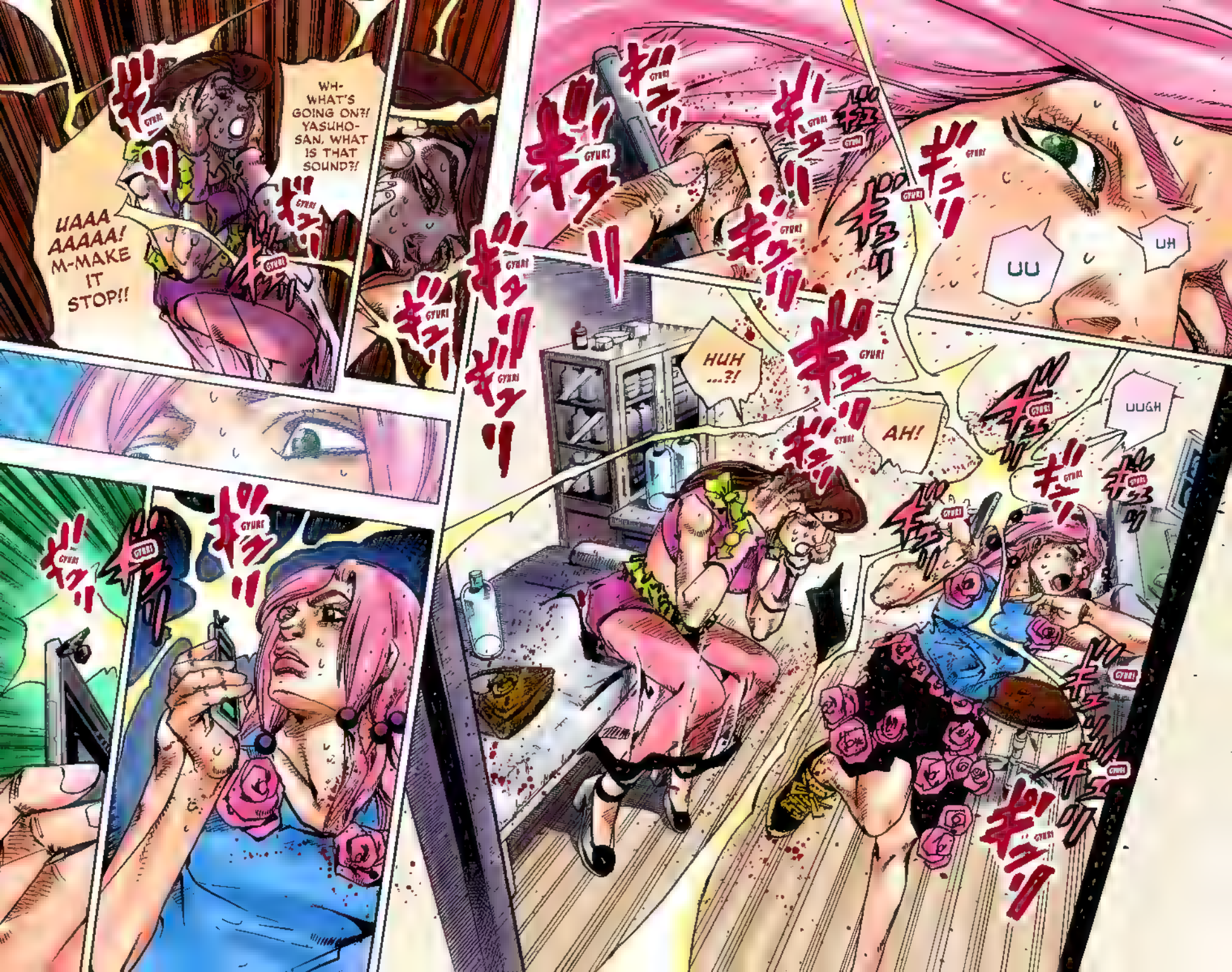

KRRR


IT'S... IT'S TOTALLY FLAT...! WH- 'WHAT' HAPPENED TO THIS WHEEL-CHAIR?!
M- MITSUBA-SAN!!

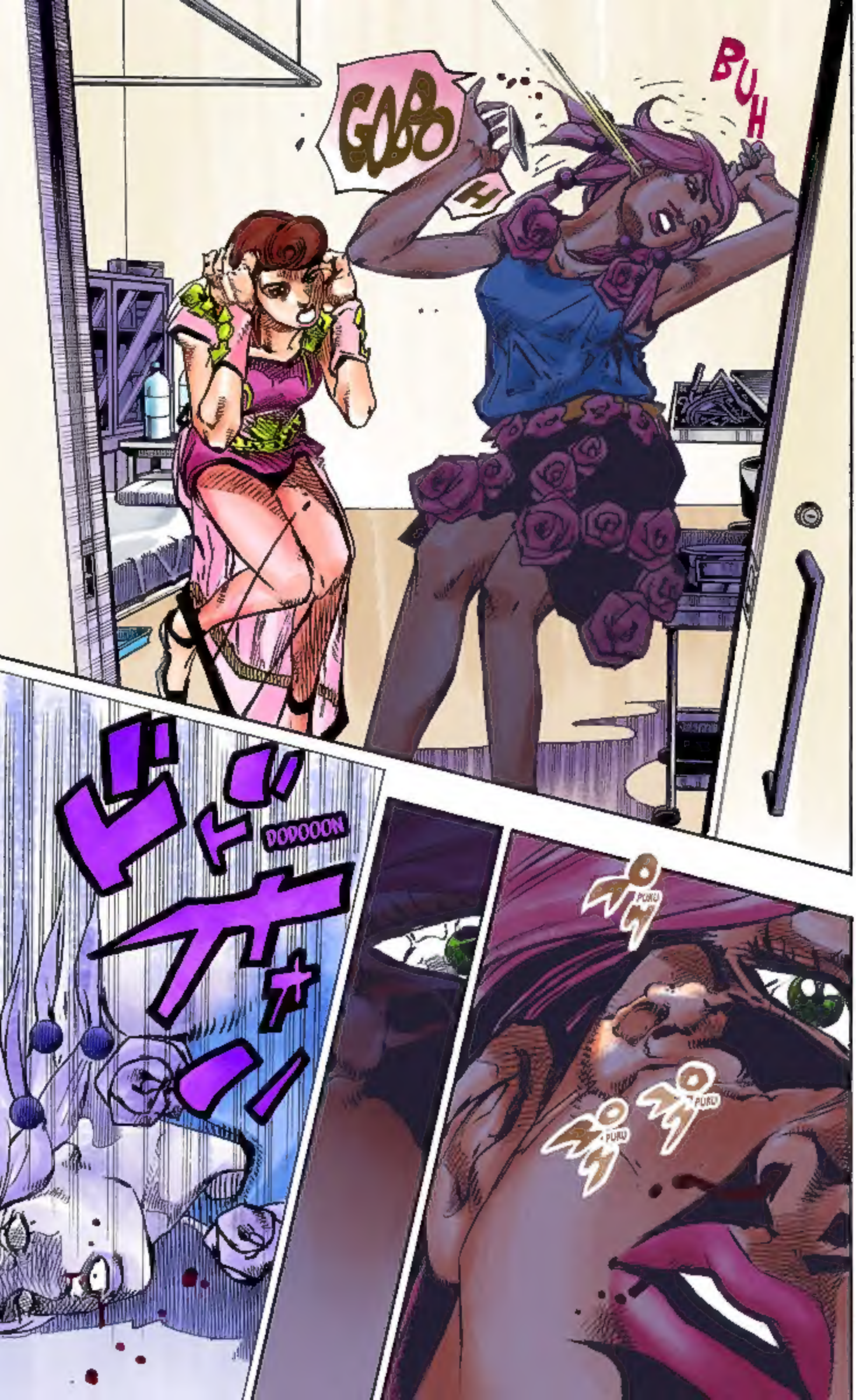

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD FLATTEN WHEELCHAIRS LIKE THAT.
THAT'S CERTAINLY ODD.
I WONDER WHAT A WHEELCHAIR IS DOING IN A DESK DRAWER?
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH

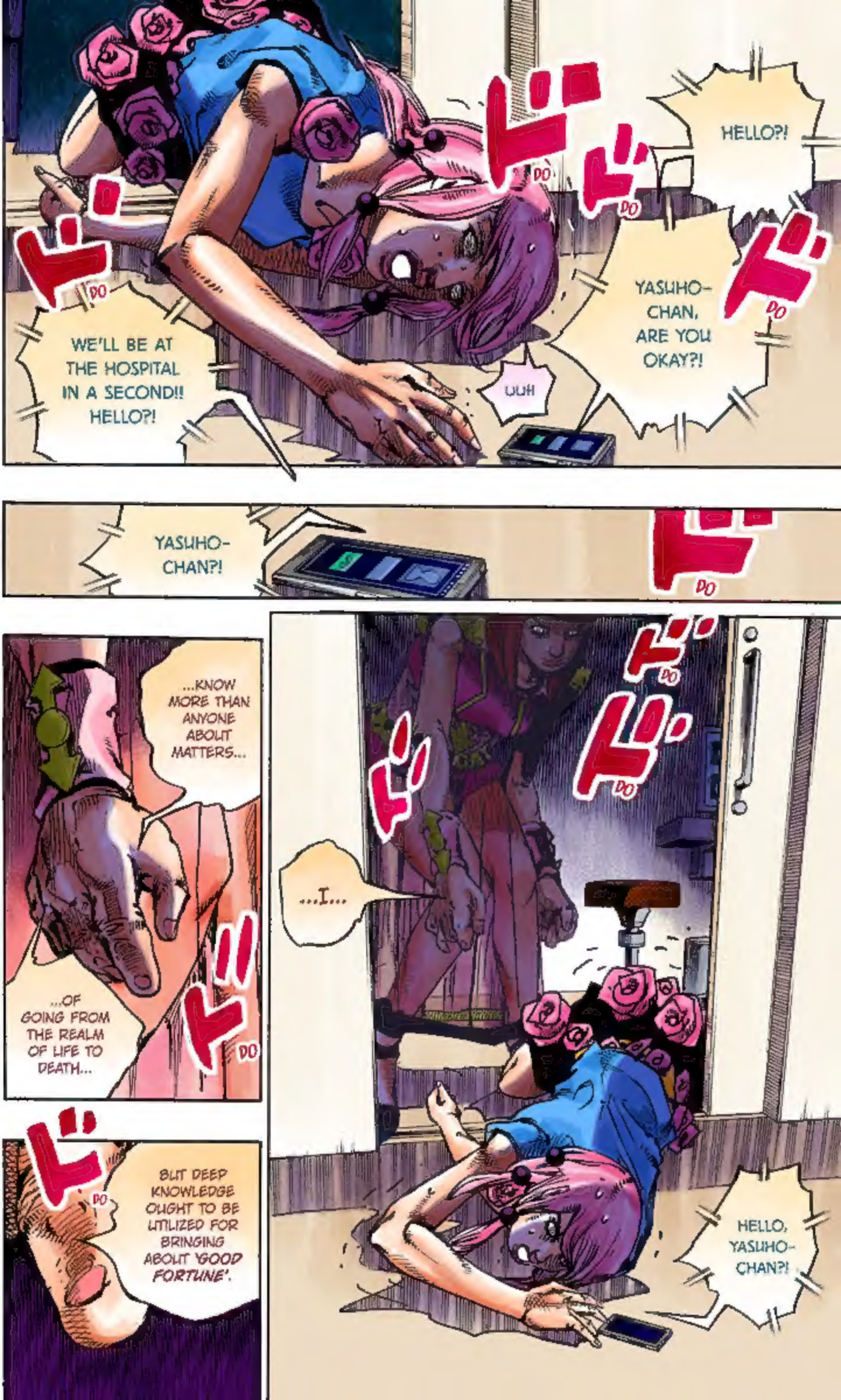

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
MRKOV
CRNNCH
CRNNCH


HELLO, YASUHO-CHAN?
DAAH
GYURI
GYURI
GYURI
GYURI
GYURI
JOSUKE-EEEEE!


UAAA AAAAA! M-MAKE IT STOP!!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?! YASUHO-SAN, WHAT IS THAT SOUND?!
GYURI
UU
UH
HUH ...?!
AH!
UUGH

WHAT?! THE 'FRAGMENTS' ARE... RUBBING TOGETHER?!
GYURI
THE ONES THAT FELL... ONTO THE STOOL?
SHUNN
WHAT'S HAPPENING, YASUHO-CHAN?!


GAO
H
BUH
ドドーン
DODOOON
PURU
PURU
PURU


WE'LL BE AT THE HOSPITAL IN A SECOND!! HELLO?!
UUH
YASUHO-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?!
HELLO?!
YASUHO-CHAN?!
...KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE ABOUT MATTERS...
...OF GOING FROM THE REALM OF LIFE TO DEATH...
BUT DEEP KNOWLEDGE OUGHT TO BE UTILIZED FOR BRINGING ABOUT 'GOOD FORTUNE'.
...I...
HELLO, YASUHO-CHAN?!

IF YOU DO FIND SOMETHING, IT WON'T BE 'GOOD FORTUNE'.
FAR GREATER IN NUMBER ARE ENEMIES, ARE EVIL.
YOU WILL NOT FIND GOOD FORTUNE.
PRGGG
DRG
DRG
DRG
DRG

DOOOON